

Arafat cuts a lonely figure in thrust for peace

By Abdul Aziz Barrouhi
Reuter

TUNIS — Critics say Yasser Arafat finally lit the fuse for his own political destruction when he sealed a peace deal with Israel and shook the hand of his old nemesis Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawn.

More than seven months and a lot of spilled Palestinian blood later, the PLO chief is still trying to grasp the symbols of statehood and ride out hostility from his own people.

But the long-delayed signing of a Palestinian self-rule deal on Wednesday in Cairo may give him another much needed lift after the difficult phase that followed February's Hebron massacre of more than 30 Palestinians by an Israeli settler.

Mr. Arafat has paid a price for his personal triumph in Washington. Each time Israel and its Western friends — who shunned him for years as a ruthless man of violence — stress his importance to the peace process, his star falls further in the Middle East.

He has been snubbed by former Arab bankrollers. Old and trusted allies in the Palestine Liberation Organisation have deserted him. Disillusioned Palestinians have burned his portrait in the Gaza Strip — part of the embryo homeland under the delayed accord with Israel.

If Syrian and Lebanese-based Palestinian hardliners have their way, Mr. Arafat will never set foot in his land. They want his head.

Asked in an interview with Reuters a few weeks ago when he expected to set up his headquarters in the West Bank town of Jericho, Mr. Arafat said: "Who knows now? Let us wait and see."

Associates say Mr. Arafat, one of the Middle East's great survivors in 30 years of directing the guns-and-words campaign for a Palestinian state, now spends most of his time working alone for up to 18 hours a day.

Cash for the PLO from wealthy Arab states stopped rolling in after his disastrous embrace of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis over the invasion of

Kuwait. Relations with Baghdad are now frosty.

"When I was a young man and began this march, I knew it was going to be a long struggle," Mr. Arafat said. "I knew it was going to be a very difficult path. I'm used to troubles in my life. I don't remember a day without troubles."

The Hebron massacre and subsequent killings of Arab protesters dealt him more body blows.

Support for him inside the 18-strong PLO Executive Committee has shrunk: Five quit over the self-rule accord secretly negotiated in Oslo and five more challenged him after Hebron.

This means Mr. Arafat — already under fire over his autocratic leadership style and accused of making too many concessions to Israel — can no longer rely on an automatic majority to ram through his decisions.

And for the first time, more than 100 officials at PLO headquarters in Tunis have publicly voiced strong reservations about his peace strategy. Western diplomats say Mr. Arafat's fate depends more than ever on Israeli-U.S. willingness to deal with him.

Mr. Arafat has no choice but to try to cut the best deal he can with Israel that knows it has him in an armlock. Besides, whatever his Palestinian opponents say, there is no one of his stature in the PLO to replace him.

Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, who as defence minister once told his troops to break Palestinian bones, complains that negotiating with the wily PLO chief is like haggling in a Middle East bazaar. But Mr. Arafat is now seen as less of a guerrilla demon by many Israelis.

Short, bald and portly, Mr. Arafat, who will be 65 in August, hardly cuts a heroic figure. Yet he is a master tactician who has survived many plots and assassination attempts since becoming PLO chairman in 1969.

A tireless traveller and warm, witty and persuasive in private, he still believes he can turn the odds in his favour.

"The thing that keeps me going, the most precious thing to a flag-waving, table-beating reception."

"The war is over between us and Israel," she said. "We want all the prisoners to be freed now the agreement has been signed."

Military officials said the release began right after Israel and the PLO signed in Cairo the accord to launch Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Israel Radio reported that about 1,000 prisoners would be let out Wednesday and more on Thursday — all but four from the mainstream PLO movement Fatah.

The four were Islamic fundamentalists who pledged to support autonomy.

Under the Cairo deal, 2,500 Palestinian prisoners are to be freed quickly and another 2,500 when the Israelis have completed their withdrawal.

The PLO has also demanded that the remaining 5,000 be released. But timetables still have to be negotiated.

All those up for release have to sign a paper pledging support for autonomy.

Opposition Likud legislator Binyamin Begin, son of the late Prime Minister Menachem Begin who signed the 1979 Camp David agreement with Egypt, called the signing "a surrender to terrorism."

With the signing, Israel is to

begin withdrawing troops from Gaza and Jericho. Israel is pledged to complete the troop pullout in three weeks.

Mr. Mubarak signed as a witness, as did Mr. Christopher and Russian minister Andrei Kozyrev as representatives of the nations sponsoring the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Christopher said the agreement would not end contention in the Middle East but was changing the shape of the conflict.

"We are coming closer to the day when disputes that were once inflamed by the argument of force will now be settled by the force of argument," he said.

Agreement on signing the accord came early Wednesday morning after a more than six-hour meeting between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin that was mediated by Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Christopher.

PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath announced an agreement was reached, but later in the morning he made clear this was achieved by putting off three of the main issues until after the signing.

These were the number of Palestinian prisoners to be freed, the exact size of Jericho and whether a uniformed Palestinian guard would stand on the bridge crossing from Jordan to the West Bank.

But the impasse apparently was broken when Israel raised to 62 square kilometres the amount of land it would withdraw from around Jericho, upping its offer of 54 square kilometres. More negotiations were expected later on the eventual size.

Dr. Shaath insisted that all 8,400 prisoners held by Israel would eventually be freed. Agreement on 5,000 has already been reached.

But Israel does not want to free around 450 who have killed Israelis and some 3,000 others, most of whom Israel says are members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas that opposes the peace process.

Dr. Shaath had been asked earlier when the prisoner question would be dealt with and replied: "We're going to do it immediately after signing."

One Israeli negotiator, Yossi Sarid, said a compromise would allow freedom of prisoners not guilty of killing if they sign a pledge to support the peace process. This could cover Hamas members.

Despite complaints that the agreement still leaves Israel too much power over their lives, Palestinians started saying it would lead to what they most want and many Israelis most fear — an independent state.

"This is the first stage for a Palestinian state," said Faisal Husseini, the main Palestinian leader in the occupied territories.

With the signing, Israel is to begin withdrawing troops from Gaza and Jericho. Israel is pledged to complete the troop pullout in three weeks.

Mr. Mubarak signed as a witness, as did Mr. Christopher and Russian minister Andrei Kozyrev as representatives of the nations sponsoring the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Christopher said the agreement would not end contention in the Middle East but was changing the shape of the conflict.

"We are coming closer to the day when disputes that were once inflamed by the argument of force will now be settled by the force of argument," he said.

Agreement on signing the accord came early Wednesday morning after a more than six-hour meeting between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin that was mediated by Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Christopher.

PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath announced an agreement was reached, but later in the morning he made clear this was achieved by putting off three of the main issues until after the signing.

These were the number of Palestinian prisoners to be freed, the exact size of Jericho and whether a uniformed Palestinian guard would stand on the bridge crossing from Jordan to the West Bank.

But the impasse apparently was broken when Israel raised to 62 square kilometres the amount of land it would withdraw from around Jericho, upping its offer of 54 square kilometres. More negotiations were expected later on the eventual size.

Dr. Shaath insisted that all 8,400 prisoners held by Israel would eventually be freed. Agreement on 5,000 has already been reached.

But Israel does not want to free around 450 who have killed Israelis and some 3,000 others, most of whom Israel says are members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas that opposes the peace process.

Dr. Shaath had been asked earlier when the prisoner question would be dealt with and replied: "We're going to do it immediately after signing."

One Israeli negotiator, Yossi Sarid, said a compromise would allow freedom of prisoners not guilty of killing if they sign a pledge to support the peace process. This could cover Hamas members.

Despite complaints that the agreement still leaves Israel too much power over their lives, Palestinians started saying it would lead to what they most want and many Israelis most fear — an independent state.

"This is the first stage for a Palestinian state," said Faisal Husseini, the main Palestinian leader in the occupied territories.

With the signing, Israel is to



CELEBRATIONS: Celebrating Palestinians cover a passing Israeli police car with flowers in Jericho on Wednesday, after the signature in Cairo of the accord to launch Palestinian self-rule (AFP photo)

Israel and PLO sign self-rule accord

(Continued from page 1)
Palestinians. Lebanon wished the PLO well.

In order to meet the signing deadline, the two sides had agreed during late-night negotiations to disagree on differences such as the size of the Jericho area to be given to the PLO.

Mr. Arafat hailed the accord as "the start of an end to Israeli occupation and a chance to create new relationships."

He signed the nearly 200-page document on an ornate marble-topped Chinese-built conference centre. Mr. Rabin followed.

"The whole world has witnessed the tip of the iceberg of the problems we will have to overcome in implementing even the first phase," Mr. Rabin said. "There is opposition on both sides to what we are doing today. It will require on both sides to succeed in bringing about peaceful coexistence. It's a very daring project and we are committed to make sure it works."

The two leaders stood for more than two hours before a sky-blue backdrop worthy of Hollywood — a giant polystyrene sphinx in front of three pyramids, flanked by maidens of ancient Egypt releasing doves.

"Negotiations do work, peace is possible," U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said after the signing. The United States sponsored the peace talks along with Russia.

"We have not yet seen the end of contention in the Middle East... the spirit of compromise that we see here must not fade," Mr. Christopher said.

Egyptian President Mubarak, presiding over the ceremony on his 66th birthday, said the agreement meant "a revolutionary change" in relations between Israel and the Palestinians.

"We are living today one of those historic moments when we witness the signing of the agreement on establishing the Palestinian authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho as the first stage of Palestinian-Israeli peace," Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Arafat referred to the accord as a "true beginning to complete the march of peace and guarantee the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," but he did not mention a Palestinian state.

Mr. Rabin also spoke of a beginning, setting off on a "daring road" that he envisioned could end in peace despite many obstacles remaining.

"We have hope but much trepidation that the two peoples could live on the tiny patch of land, each under their own flag tree as the prophets said," Mr. Rabin declared.

With the signing, Israel is to begin withdrawing troops from Gaza and Jericho. Israel is pledged to complete the troop pullout in three weeks.

Mr. Mubarak signed as a witness, as did Mr. Christopher and Russian minister Andrei Kozyrev as representatives of the nations sponsoring the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Christopher said the agreement would not end contention in the Middle East but was changing the shape of the conflict.

"We are coming closer to the day when disputes that were once inflamed by the argument of force will now be settled by the force of argument," he said.

Agreement on signing the accord came early Wednesday morning after a more than six-hour meeting between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin that was mediated by Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Christopher.

PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath announced an agreement was reached, but later in the morning he made clear this was achieved by putting off three of the main issues until after the signing.

These were the number of Palestinian prisoners to be freed, the exact size of Jericho and whether a uniformed Palestinian guard would stand on the bridge crossing from Jordan to the West Bank.

But the impasse apparently was broken when Israel raised to 62 square kilometres the amount of land it would withdraw from around Jericho, upping its offer of 54 square kilometres. More negotiations were expected later on the eventual size.

Dr. Shaath insisted that all 8,400 prisoners held by Israel would eventually be freed. Agreement on 5,000 has already been reached.

But Israel does not want to free around 450 who have killed Israelis and some 3,000 others, most of whom Israel says are members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas that opposes the peace process.

Dr. Shaath had been asked earlier when the prisoner question would be dealt with and replied: "We're going to do it immediately after signing."

One Israeli negotiator, Yossi Sarid, said a compromise would allow freedom of prisoners not guilty of killing if they sign a pledge to support the peace process. This could cover Hamas members.

Despite complaints that the agreement still leaves Israel too much power over their lives, Palestinians started saying it would lead to what they most want and many Israelis most fear — an independent state.

"This is the first stage for a Palestinian state," said Faisal Husseini, the main Palestinian leader in the occupied territories.

With the signing, Israel is to

begin withdrawing troops from Gaza and Jericho. Israel is pledged to complete the troop pullout in three weeks.

Mr. Mubarak signed as a witness, as did Mr. Christopher and Russian minister Andrei Kozyrev as representatives of the nations sponsoring the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Christopher said the agreement would not end contention in the Middle East but was changing the shape of the conflict.

"We are coming closer to the day when disputes that were once inflamed by the argument of force will now be settled by the force of argument," he said.

Agreement on signing the accord came early Wednesday morning after a more than six-hour meeting between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin that was mediated by Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Christopher.

PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath announced an agreement was reached, but later in the morning he made clear this was achieved by putting off three of the main issues until after the signing.

These were the number of Palestinian prisoners to be freed, the exact size of Jericho and whether a uniformed Palestinian guard would stand on the bridge crossing from Jordan to the West Bank.

But the impasse apparently was broken when Israel raised to 62 square kilometres the amount of land it would withdraw from around Jericho, upping its offer of 54 square kilometres. More negotiations were expected later on the eventual size.

Dr. Shaath insisted that all 8,400 prisoners held by Israel would eventually be freed. Agreement on 5,000 has already been reached.

But Israel does not want to free around 450 who have killed Israelis and some 3,000 others, most of whom Israel says are members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas that opposes the peace process.

Dr. Shaath had been asked earlier when the prisoner question would be dealt with and replied: "We're going to do it immediately after signing."

One Israeli negotiator, Yossi Sarid, said a compromise would allow freedom of prisoners not guilty of killing if they sign a pledge to support the peace process. This could cover Hamas members.

Despite complaints that the agreement still leaves Israel too much power over their lives, Palestinians started saying it would lead to what they most want and many Israelis most fear — an independent state.

"This is the first stage for a Palestinian state," said Faisal Husseini, the main Palestinian leader in the occupied territories.

With the signing, Israel is to

begin withdrawing troops from Gaza and Jericho. Israel is pledged to complete the troop pullout in three weeks.

Mr. Mubarak signed as a witness, as did Mr. Christopher and Russian minister Andrei Kozyrev as representatives of the nations sponsoring the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Christopher said the agreement would not end contention in the Middle East but was changing the shape of the conflict.

"We are coming closer to the day when disputes that were once inflamed by the argument of force will now be settled by the force of argument," he said.

Agreement on signing the accord came early Wednesday morning after a more than six-hour meeting between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin that was mediated by Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Christopher.

PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath announced an agreement was reached, but later in the morning he made clear this was achieved by putting off three of the main issues until after the signing.

These were the number of Palestinian prisoners to be freed, the exact size of Jericho and whether a uniformed Palestinian guard would stand on the bridge crossing from Jordan to the West Bank.

But the impasse apparently was broken when Israel raised to 62 square kilometres the amount of land it would withdraw from around Jericho, upping its offer of 54 square kilometres. More negotiations were expected later on the eventual size.

Dr. Shaath insisted that all 8,400 prisoners held by Israel would eventually be freed. Agreement on 5,000 has already been reached.

But Israel does not want to free around 450 who have killed Israelis and some 3,000 others, most of whom Israel says are members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas that opposes the peace process.

Dr. Shaath had been asked earlier when the prisoner question would be dealt with and replied: "We're going to do it immediately after signing."

One Israeli negotiator, Yossi Sarid, said a compromise would allow freedom of prisoners not guilty of killing if they sign a pledge to support the peace process. This could cover Hamas members.

Despite complaints that the agreement still leaves Israel too much power over their lives, Palestinians started saying it would lead to what they most want and many Israelis most fear — an independent state.

"This is the first stage for a Palestinian state," said Faisal Husseini, the main Palestinian leader in the occupied territories.

With the signing, Israel is to

begin withdrawing troops from Gaza and Jericho. Israel is pledged to complete the troop pullout in three weeks.

Mr. Mubarak signed as a witness, as did Mr. Christopher and Russian minister Andrei Kozyrev as representatives of the nations sponsoring the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Christopher said the agreement would not end contention in the Middle East but was changing the shape of the conflict.

"We are coming closer to the day when disputes that were once inflamed by the argument of force will now be settled by the force of argument," he said.

Agreement on signing the accord came early Wednesday morning after a more than six-hour meeting between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin that was mediated by Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Christopher.

PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath announced an agreement was reached, but later in the morning he made clear this was achieved by putting off three of the main issues until after the signing.

These were the number of Palestinian prisoners to be freed, the exact size of Jericho and whether a uniformed Palestinian guard would stand on the bridge crossing from Jordan to the West Bank.

But the impasse apparently was broken when Israel raised to 62 square kilometres the amount of land it would withdraw from around Jericho, upping its offer of 54 square kilometres. More negotiations were expected later on the eventual size.

Dr. Shaath insisted that all 8,400 prisoners held by Israel would eventually be freed. Agreement on 5,000 has already been reached.

But Israel does not want to free around 450 who have killed Israelis and some 3,000 others, most of whom Israel says are members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas that opposes the peace process.

Dr. Shaath had been asked earlier when the prisoner question would be dealt with and replied: "We're going to do it immediately after signing."

One Israeli negotiator, Yossi Sarid, said a compromise would allow freedom of prisoners not guilty of killing if they sign a pledge to support the peace process. This could cover Hamas members.

Despite complaints that the agreement still leaves Israel too much power over their lives, Palestinians started saying it would lead to what they most want and many Israelis most fear — an independent state.

"This is the first stage for a Palestinian state," said Faisal Husseini, the main Palestinian leader in the occupied territories.

With the signing, Israel is to

begin withdrawing troops from Gaza and Jericho. Israel is pledged to complete the troop pullout in three weeks.

Mr. Mubarak signed as a witness, as did Mr. Christopher and Russian minister Andrei Kozyrev as representatives of the nations sponsoring the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Christopher said the agreement would not end contention in the Middle East but was changing the shape of the conflict.

"We are coming closer to the day when disputes that were once inflamed by the argument of force will now be settled by the force of argument," he said.

Agreement on signing the accord came early Wednesday morning after a more than six-hour meeting between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin that was mediated by Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Christopher.

PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath announced an agreement was reached, but later in the morning he made clear this was achieved by putting off three of the main issues until after the signing.

These were the number of Palestinian prisoners to be freed, the exact size of Jericho and whether a uniformed Palestinian guard would stand on the bridge crossing from Jordan to the West Bank.

But the impasse apparently was broken when Israel raised to 62 square kilometres the amount of land it would withdraw from around Jericho, upping its offer of 54 square kilometres. More negotiations were expected later on the eventual size.

Dr. Shaath insisted that all 8,400 prisoners held by Israel would eventually be freed. Agreement on 5,000 has already been reached.

But Israel does not want to free around 450 who have killed Israelis and some 3,000 others, most of whom Israel says are members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas that opposes the peace process.

Dr. Shaath had been asked earlier when the prisoner question would be dealt with and replied: "We're going to do it immediately after signing."

One Israeli negotiator, Yossi Sarid, said a compromise would allow freedom of prisoners not guilty of killing if they sign a pledge to support the peace process. This could cover Hamas members.

Despite complaints that the agreement still leaves Israel too much power over their lives, Palestinians started saying it would lead to what they most want and many Israelis most fear — an independent state.

"This is the first stage for a Palestinian state," said Faisal Husseini, the main Palestinian leader in the occupied territories.

With the signing, Israel is to

Rabin, Israel's man of war — and peace

By Howard Goller
Reuter

TEL AVIV — Yitzhak Rabin led Israel in the 1967 war. As prime minister a generation later, he sealed a peace deal with the PLO in an equally swift and surprising move.

It was only fitting that after signing a landmark draft accord with Israel's arch-foe in September 1993, the gravel-voiced former general rushed from Washington to Tel Aviv to toast the Jewish new year with the army's top brass.

Israelis customarily wish one another a year of happiness. Mr. Rabin wished the generals a year of abundant security.

Mr. Rabin wrested control of the Labour Party from longtime rival Shimon Peres and came to power in 1992 vowing to bring Israel peace and security. Far more pragmatic than visionary, he said Israel had to take calculated risks for peace.

"What can we do? Peace you don't make with friends, but with very unsympathetic enemies. I won't try to make the PLO look good. It was an enemy, it remains an enemy, but negotiations must be with enemies," Mr. Rabin said.

Still, many were baffled when it emerged that he had approved the secret deal with the PLO — an organisation Israeli governments had branded as a "terrorist" group seeking the destruction of the Jewish state.

When Mr. Rabin shook PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's hand on the White House lawn, critics accused him of breaking every important promise he had ever made. Supporters praised him for bold leadership.

In the final run-up to the signing of a comprehensive self-rule accord with the Palestinians, Mr. Rabin also turned his attention to Syria, sending fresh peace proposals to Damascus with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Mr. Rabin also said Israel would be ready to dismantle settlements for peace.

Born in Jerusalem in 1922, Mr. Rabin joined the Palmach military underground at age 18. After World War II, he helped free illegal Jewish immigrants in Palestine and in 1946 the British jailed him for six months in the Gaza Strip.

An army chief in the 1967 war, Mr. Rabin led his troops in the war against Egypt, Jordan and Syria that brought Palestinians under Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But 12 days before the war, Mr. Rabin later admitted, he closeted himself for 24 hours of "deep emotional distress." He took an injection to help him sleep before leading Israel to a stunning victory.

Mr. Rabin left the army after 27 years to enter public life in 1968, first as ambassador to Washington and, from 1974 to 1977, as Israel's only "Sabra" or native-born prime minister.

His army credentials made him popular with war-hardened Israelis but his politics puzzled them.

His first government fell amid a scandal over an illegal foreign bank account held by his wife, but Mr. Rabin remained powerful enough in his Labour Party to win the defence minister's job in a coalition formed in 1984.

When in 1987 Palestinians of the occupied territories launched a popular uprising for independence, Mr. Rabin responded with an "iron fist" policy. He vowed to fight with "might, power and beatings."

But he also pushed for peace with Palestinians, drafting plans put forward by hardline Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Their coalition crumbled in 1990 when Mr. Shamir refused to go the distance.

In 1992 Mr. Rabin came back to smash Mr. Shamir, putting former generals in the front line of a tough campaign that portrayed Labour as the party of both peace and security.

Entering office, Mr. Rabin offered to meet his Arab enemies in their capitals, from much new Jewish settlement in the occupied territories and negotiated a peaceful end to a four-day army siege of a Palestinian university.

His bold moves mended frayed relations with the United States, Israel's closest ally, and with Egypt, which had signed a peace treaty in 1979.

But the massacre by a Jewish settler of more than 30 Muslim worshippers in a mosque in the West Bank city of Hebron in February deepened Palestinian mistrust of Israel and its leaders.

And Mr. Rabin was quick to order the sealing of the occupied territories from Israel — keeping thousands of Palestinians from their jobs — after a Palestinian killed seven Israelis in a suicide bombing in the northern town of Afula on April 6.

Mr. Rabin and his wife, Leah, have a son and daughter.

ATLANTA, Georgia (R) — President Bill Clinton said Tuesday Israel and Syria recognised they had an opportunity to achieve a peace breakthrough this year.

Speaking at the Carter presidential centre in Atlanta in a satellite television news conference organised by CNN, Mr. Clinton said: "All of us believe that we have a greater chance to achieve a breakthrough agreement than ever before... we have a real chance to make progress this year."

Mr. Clinton said he based his optimism on conversations with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, including a telephone call with Mr. Rabin earlier on Tuesday.

"Obviously since those conversations are private I can't

say more. But I honestly believe that, and I think the other actors in this drama believe as well," Mr. Clinton said.

He said Mr. Assad and Mr. Rabin had agreed Secretary of State Warren Christopher should act as mediator. Mr. Christopher, who will wrap up a Middle East shuttle Wednesday, said he would return to the region to continue his efforts within the next two weeks.

Israeli-Syrian peace efforts are likely to move to the forefront of Middle East diplomacy following Wednesday's signing of a major agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation under which Israel will withdraw from the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Celebrations subdued in occupied lands

(Continued from page 1)

during the intifada years.

"We are in a state of disbelief. We don't know what our fate will be because we have no idea about what they signed now," said Abdul Karim Sader, Fatah leader in Jericho.

Mr. Sader said on September 13, when the PLO and Israel signed the accord in Washington, people took to the streets in celebration. There were full hopes of independence and an end to occupation.

"There's a big difference between people's reactions on September 13 and on May 4," Mr. Sader said. "They are deeply disappointed by several delays."

He said the PLO had marginalised the role of local leaders, and thus lack of enthusiasm, triggered usually by local leaders, was lacking on the signing day.

Many people complained of the gap between the people and the PLO negotiators in Cairo. They said people were kept in the dark as if the agreement concerned individual PLO leaders. However, this did not mean people would not still go out in the streets celebrating the entry of the PLO leaders and the Palesti-

nian police.

"There will definitely be change, and people are acting for this change; even if the agreement does not meet their minimum expectations, it means they won't have to see Israeli soldiers every day, or have their sons arrested," said Mr. Abu Maher.

Jericho, which hopes to become the symbol of Palestinian sovereignty after almost 27 years of occupation, was declared a closed military area. For the first time, West Bank blue-plated cars were allowed free movement in and out of Jericho, while Israeli, yellow-plated cars were banned. Soldiers said the closure was aimed at preventing Jewish settlers from entering Jericho and disrupting peace there.

Settlers demonstrated outside Jericho and entered a synagogue protesting "Israeli concessions" to the PLO by offering them an area of 64 square kilometres.

Agencies add: Hundreds of friends and relatives turned out on the Gaza Strip to welcome their loved ones home from Israeli jails as a mass release of Palestinian prisoners began on Wednesday.

"Peace is wonderful," shouted Um Majid Sharif, 55, as the first men arrived clad in chequered Palestinian scarves

to a flag-waving, table-beating reception.

"The war is over between us and Israel," she said. "We want all the prisoners to be freed now the agreement has been signed."

Military officials said the release began right after Israel and the PLO signed in Cairo the accord to launch Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Israel Radio reported that about 1,000 prisoners would be let out Wednesday and more on Thursday — all but four from the mainstream PLO movement Fatah.

The four were Islamic fundamentalists who pledged to support autonomy.

Under the Cairo deal, 2,500 Palestinian prisoners are to be freed quickly and another 2,500 when the Israelis have completed their withdrawal.

The PLO has also demanded that the remaining 5,000 be released. But timetables still have to be negotiated.

All those up for release have to sign a paper pledging support for autonomy.

Opposition Likud legislator Binyamin Begin, son of the late Prime Minister Menachem Begin who signed the 1979 Camp David agreement with Egypt, called the signing "a surrender to terrorism."

With the signing, Israel is to begin withdrawing troops from Gaza and Jericho. Israel is pledged to complete the troop pullout in three weeks.

Mr. Mubarak signed as a witness, as did Mr. Christopher and Russian minister Andrei Kozyrev as representatives of the nations sponsoring the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Christopher said the agreement would not end contention in the Middle East but was changing the shape of the conflict.

"We are coming closer to the day when disputes that were once inflamed by the argument of force will now be settled by the force of argument," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 Taratara Fantastique
19:00 News in French
19:15
19:15 Minute Fantastique
19:20 News in Arabic
19:25 Sports Special
19:30 News in Arabic
19:35 News in English
19:40 News in English
19:45 News in English
19:50 News in English
19:55 News in English
20:00 News in English
20:05 News in English
20:10 News in English
20:15 News in English
20:20 News in English
20:25 News in English
20:30 News in English
20:35 News in English
20:40 News in English
20:45 News in English
20:50 News in English
20:55 News in English
21:00 News in English
21:05 News in English
21:10 News in English
21:15 News in English
21:20 News in English
21:25 News in English
21:30 News in English
21:35 News in English
21:40 News in English
21:45 News in English
21:50 News in English
21:55 News in English
22:00 News in English
22:05 News in English
22:10 News in English
22:15 News in English
22:20 News in English
22:25 News in English
22:30 News in English
22:35 News in English
22:40 News in English
22:45 News in English
22:50 News in English
22:55 News in English
23:00 News in English
23:05 News in English
23:10 News in English
23:15 News in English
23:20 News in English
23:25 News in English
23:30 News in English
23:35 News in English
23:40 News in English
23:45 News in English
23:50 News in English
23:55 News in English
24:00 News in English

PRAYER TIMES
04:16 Fajr

Home News

International freight company may use Jordan as transit point

By Ian Atallah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A major British-owned international freight forwarding company is investigating the possibility of using Jordan as a main transit point for its freight services and expanding its currently minimal working relationship with Royal Jordanian airlines.

Aqel Biltajhi, RJ's executive vice president, told the Jordan Times that representatives from MSAS Cargo International Ltd. would be visiting RJ air cargo facilities at Queen Alia Airport late Wednesday afternoon and would hold meetings with RJ officials later in the evening.

"When peace comes, this region will be very interesting place for business," said Dick Hustler, MSAS commercial manager.

He said that his company had only begun to investigate the possibility of using Jordan as a "gateway country" for its freight routing within the last twelve months "because Jordan had never been in that position before."

But if the Israeli-PLO peace process takes firm root, he said, "this region will be redeveloped and create business in new ways, and in this case Jordan will be an ideal gateway."

Although freight forwarding corporations are difficult to rank exactly in terms of overall size, said Mr. Hustler, MSAS ranks among "the top five, if not the top three freight forwarding companies internationally," he claimed, with an annual turnover of \$1 billion annually. He added that the company's strongest business is in southeast Asia and Singapore.

MSAS Commercial Director Stephen Chipping said that the company was investigating expanding the use of RJ's cargo services because RJ's flight network "fits in very well with our own overall network," with RJ's links between the Middle East and western countries and the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

World's oldest active ship visits Jordan

AQABA — M.V. Doulos, registered in The Guinness Book of Records as the world's oldest active ocean-going ship, sailed into Aqaba harbour yesterday for a 14-day visit, the ship's owners said in a press release.

Doulos is also the world's largest floating book exhibition carrying more than half a million books. Approximately four thousand titles are for sale covering a vast range of subjects, including science, medicine, arts and cooking, as well as a large selection of educational and children's books. During the Doulos visit, book fairs will be held both on board the vessel in Aqaba, and at the British Council in Amman. The book fair in Aqaba will be open to the public from May 6 to May 8 and from May 11 to May 15. In Amman, the book fair will be open from May 10 to May 15. In both places, the hours will be from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

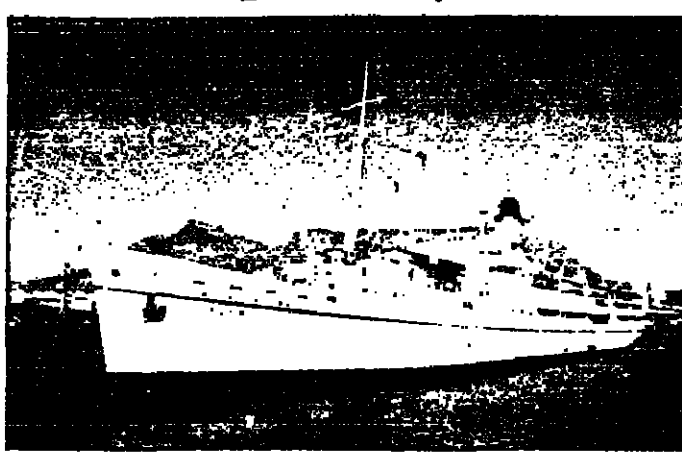
With a crew and staff of more than 300 volunteers, including families, from 35 different countries, the ship is a floating "united nations". The Doulos is an opportunity for people from a wide variety of cultures, languages and backgrounds to live and work together in cooperation.

To further the goal of promoting international goodwill, the Doulos will present a variety of events both on board and ashore including the Doulos World Tour '94, a cultural presentation of folk dances and musical items prepared by the international crew.

In Amman, the book fair will also include international cultural displays of items from the nations that make up the Doulos crew.

Built in 1914 in the U.S., the Doulos was originally christened "Medina". After three ownership changes she was bought by the German based charity organisation "Gute Bucher fur Alle" (Good Books for All) and renamed "Doulos", meaning "servant" in Greek.

Since 1977 the Doulos has visited more than 65 countries in South America, Africa, Europe and Asia. This will be the ship's first visit to Jordan.



Doulos: Floating library and book exhibition docks at Aqaba

cultures, languages and backgrounds to live and work together in cooperation.

To further the goal of promoting international goodwill, the Doulos will present a variety of events both on board and ashore including the Doulos World Tour '94, a cultural presentation of folk dances and musical items prepared by the international crew.

In Amman, the book fair will also include international cultural displays of items from the nations that make up the Doulos crew.

Paris seminar meant to promote French-Jordanian trade relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and France are today opening a seminar under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan designed to promote French-Jordanian economic and trade relations.

"We are seeking increased Franco-Jordanian cooperation through boosting the volume of exchanged trade and implementing joint industrial ventures through this seminar which is organised by the Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA)," according to Association Vice Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa.

The seminar, scheduled to open in Paris, will be addressed by Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf who will stand in for the Crown Prince and will tackle ways for adjusting the French-Jordanian balance of trade which is heavily in favour of France, according to Mr. Tabbaa.

Noting that France sells Jordan \$150 million of products annually, Mr. Tabbaa expressed hope that the seminar would result in increasing and diversifying Jordanian goods exported to France, especially fruits and vegetables, and Jordanian potash and phosphate whose exports have retreated over the past two years.

There are indeed vast opportunities for increasing trade and economic cooperation through the private sectors of the two countries, not only in economic and trade affairs but also in tourism where Jordan hopes to attract an increased number of French and other European visitors, said Mr. Tabbaa.

On the eve of the Paris meeting, Dr. Khalaf met in Paris with French government officials and representatives of businessmen associations to discuss topics related to the seminar which was organised in cooperation with the Arab-French Chamber of Commerce.

Stressing the need for the creation of a joint French-Jordanian businessmen council, the minister said that French investors have a great opportunity to launch ventures with Jordanian counterparts in light of Jordanian laws and regulations governing investments in the Kingdom.

The idea of creating a joint council was welcomed by the French officials and businessmen who promised to dispatch a team to Amman soon to follow up this matter with Jordanian businessmen and conclude an agreement in this context.

Prince Hassan: Peace in the region should take into account people's needs

AMMAN (Petra) — Any peace envisioned for the Middle East should be formulated from within the region and must not be planned from outside the area, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Wednesday.

"Any peace in the area should take into account the humanitarian dimensions and the people's needs," said the Crown Prince at a meeting with a visiting team representing the U.S. National War College.

Jordan has shown total commitment to the attainment of a just and durable peace based on the Kingdom's concept of history and its understanding

of the region's needs and requirements and has defended the idea and the concept of a just and permanent settlement over the past decades, said the Crown Prince at the meeting held at the Royal Court.

In reviewing Jordan's role at the regional and international levels, the Crown Prince said that the Kingdom has followed a balanced policy and at the same time it has shouldered its responsibilities towards the other Arab countries.

In that respect, Jordan has served as a safe haven for waves of displaced people since the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict and has been advocating the human rights cause

despite the difficult circumstances, added Prince Hassan.

In reply to questions by the team's members, the Crown Prince outlined Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the peace process and the status of Jerusalem as well as the Gaza-Jericho first accord.

He stressed the need for separating human heritage, which represents man's civilisation, from politics in dealing with the Jerusalem question.

Prince Hassan emphasised the need for protecting the special status of Jerusalem, demanding that the restoration of its sites be the sole mission of

the Waqf institution which has retained its responsibility for safeguarding the holy places for decades.

The U.S. team also met Wednesday with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Abdul Hafez Miral, and reviewed the general situation in the region and issues of common interest.

The team was briefed on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces and their role in safeguarding peace and security. Discussion also covered matters related to the exchange of military expertise and coordination in military affairs.

Transport company nets JD 2.8m in 1993

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Syria Land Transport Company has secured a JD2.8 million in net profits from its operations in 1993, registering a 53 per cent increase over the profits made in the previous year, according to the company General Manager Hamdi Habashneh.

The company's 362 trucks earned the company gross revenues amounting to JD8 million during 1993, registering a 24 per cent increase over the 1992 figures, Mr. Habashneh said.

He said this is a record achievement for the company which was established by the governments of Jordan and Syria in 1975.

Referring to the amounts of goods trucked by the company, he said, they were estimated at 1.124 million tonnes in weight in 1993.

In light of these positive results, the company's general assembly which met last week in Damascus has given its consent for renewing part of the company's fleet and also to expand the company's operations by introducing a passenger bus service operating between Jordan and Syria.

He said that the company's management will shortly embark on a study on this project.

Indian company to buy \$35m worth of potash from APC

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An Indian firm on Wednesday signed an agreement with the Arab Potash Company (APC) to purchase 250,000 tonnes of potash during 1994, company officials said.

The agreement was signed by APC Director General Suleiman Howari and Jacob John, managing director of Indian Potash Limited (IPL), a company based in the south Indian city of Madras and the only Indian fertiliser company with a national network.

The purchase contract is estimated to be worth about \$35 million.

The Indian company imported 300,000 tonnes of Jordanian potash in 1993 after New Delhi removed a government monopoly on imports of the item along with several other products, including phosphates, another major Indian import from Jordan.

For several decades now, India has been the largest importer of Jordanian phosphates, potash and other fertiliser-related products.

According to figures provided by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation, an Indian state agency,

Jordanian exports to India during the April-March financial year (1993-94) totalled \$125 million.

Jordan's purchase from India during the same period were about \$40 million.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. John said his company was mainly involved in promoting the use of potash among Indian farmers until the monopoly was removed.

"We are the only company in India which seeks to increase the use of potash as fertiliser by farmers," he said, adding that the firm was established 40 years ago.

"When the company was founded, Indian use of potash in agriculture was 5,000 tonnes," Mr. John said. It rose to 2.2 million just prior to the lifting of the state monopoly on imports, he added.

Following the government move to free potash imports in 1992 — which also meant an end to subsidies — prices went up by nearly 280 per cent, he said. As a result, India's annual consumption of potash as fertiliser declined to 1.6 million tonnes.

APC has several Indian clients, but IPL is by far its largest importer in the sub-continent.

Mr. John, who was visiting the APC plant in Ghor Safi and Aqaba port facilities on Wednesday, before heading for Syria on Thursday, said his company was also interested in Jordanian phosphates.

"We will definitely be purchasing Jordanian phosphates, but it will take some time since the international prices of the product are high," he said, explaining that the Indian government subsidies for phosphates for use in agriculture were limited to processing plants, not importers.

"This means that we cannot offer competitive prices since we do not have a processing plant and are not eligible for subsidies," he said. "However, we might be able to gain an edge among independent importers."

IPL, which maintains offices throughout India, is a "joint sector" venture.

India's annual consumption of phosphates is around 3.5 million tonnes. About half of it is imported from Jordan.

In addition to potash and phosphate, IPL also deals in urea, sulphur and several other fertiliser-related products.

Conference recommends adoption of environment policies, legislation

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The need for an international code for the protection of the environment and international cooperation with the European Union countries were seen as the most significant issue of the conference on environment panel discussion regarding ways of adopting environmental policies and legislation.

Participants at the two-day conference which ended Wednesday recognised that environment does not have political borders, and action is required "if we want to live in a safe regional environment."

"We are compelled to intensify efforts to ensure that environmental laws are implemented and a special code to deal with the environmental problems is in place," said Ahmad Obeidat, a president of the Jordanian Society for the Control of Environmental

pollution and chairman of the eight-man panel.

Mahjoub Al Haiba, Morocco representative, said there is a need to create an informal network specialised in the environmental law in the Arab World and to constitute a channel between the Arab World and specialists in Europe in the environment field to exchange information and specialists among these countries.

Dr. Hussein Zaki, the other Jordanian representative at the panel, said that since 1982 laws on environment have been forwarded to parliament but no legislation has been implemented to introduce a law regarding environmental protection.

M. Heber of the Max Plank Institute at the Halle University, Germany said the conference should be a starting point for exchange of experience among countries.

"Countries need to start

acting quickly, and not just wait until next year for a conference to remind them of the environmental dangers," said Mr. Heber.

He pointed out that the best way to accomplish the region's goals is by finding people who are interested and ready to support environmental issues.

Dr. Tala Akasheh, from the Higher Council of Science and Technology, said "there is an obvious reason for us to cooperate with Europe since 'we share the Mediterranean Sea, we have a physical contact and we need to take care of each other'."

Dr. Akasheh proposed working with concerned ministries and non-governmental organisations because "we are facing a 'serious environmental problem'."

Nicolas de Sadeleer, director of the Centre for Research of Environmental rights in Belgium, said that the major problem in the Arab World is the lack of proper contacts between organisations throughout the world regarding the environment issue. Participants will also try to recommend a regional law to be implemented and which the countries of the region should abide by in order to tackle obstacles facing the Arab World and eliminate them.

3 die, 1 injured in car accident

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three people were killed and one person was seriously injured Tuesday in a road accident near the Jordanian-Iraqi borders, a Civil Defence Department report said.

According to the report, the three died instantly, when the truck they were riding collided with a gas tanker.

On impact, the tanker started burning. The driver suffered second-degree burns and is listed in fair condition, the report said.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times that the accident, which occurred at 8:40 p.m. was due to reduced visibility and dust.

The official said it is possible the two vehicles met head-on, since they could not see each other, and the tanker dragged the pickup for more than 50 metres. The tanker was empty of any flammable material, he added.

The three victims, Mahmoud Awad, Abed Rahman and Ayed Salman, along with the tanker driver Fayed Ali, were taken to Al Rweished Military Hospital.

A hospital official told the Jordan Times that the tanker driver was transferred to Al Bashir Hospital in Amman for treatment.

Ministry plans rescheduling municipal councils' debts

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment is studying the possibility of rescheduling the debts a number of municipalities owe to a number of money-lending organisations in the course of measures to help local councils shoulder their responsibilities and carry out their projects, according to a statement Wednesday by Minister of Municipal Affairs Ahmad Aqaleh.

Parallel to this study, the ministry will also be involved in examining the local council's needs and working out a comprehensive plan that would run side by side with the nation's new five-year socio-economic development scheme and cater to the requirements of the government's decentralisation programme, the minister said. The plan will help local

councils to reduce spending, and avoid any wastage of public funds with the help of a new set of laws and regulations governing the work of local councils in Jordan, added the minister.

Criticising the municipal councils for their failure to speed up the process of collecting funds the public owes in the form of fees and taxes, the minister said that the new set of regulations would deal with such situations and would help councils improve their collection system.

Currently, he said, the ministry is conducting a full examination of means to stimulate the work of joint councils' services and a general meeting has been scheduled for next week when representatives of various councils would review progress done in this respect.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

- ★ Film in Spanish entitled "Yo Soy Esa" at the Spanish Cultural Centre on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 6130777).
- ★ Video film in English on sculptor Henry Moore (part one) with commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis) on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

CONCERT

- ★ Concert (by the National Music Institute) at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

GALA DINNER AT KARAK CASTLE

- ★ Departure by bus from Amra Hotel on Thursday at 3:00 p.m. return to Amman will be late in the evening. Trip is sponsored by the Friends of Archaeology.

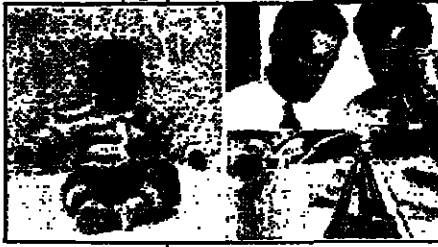
EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Drawings exhibition by Nazareth School students at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by artists Walid Sheer and Nazem Hamed at Alfa Art Gallery (Tel. 639303).
- ★ "Exhibition of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Food Industries '94" at the World Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 837218, 847113).
- ★ Art exhibition by Bashar Ibrahim at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by five Egyptian artists at Darat Al Founn of the Abdel Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lurweldh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Exhibition by artist Mohammad Muharraddin at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by artists Dr. Ali Ghoul, Hussein Da'seh, Adnan Al Sharif, Abdul Hussein Tawaji, Salman Abbas, and Hafez Al Droubi at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

We Welcome You Starting From May 10th

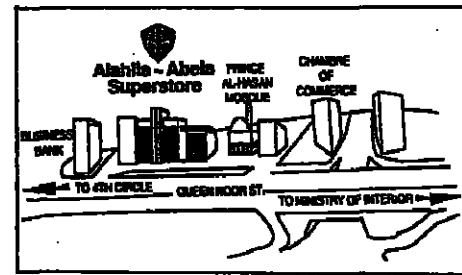


Alahlia ~ Abela Superstore



All you look for and a little bit more

Alahlia~Abela, a unique service-oriented, customer-friendly store, with pleasant atmosphere and a modern touch that makes shopping enjoyable at all times.



A PROJECT OF ALAHLIA COMMERCIAL CENTERS P.S.C.

Weekender

U.S. women learning how to play hardball

By Sarah Tipit
Reuter

ORLANDO, Florida — A solemn funeral recently took place at an Orlando baseball field to bury a decades-old mentality.

Three pallbearers placed a softball and lightweight aluminium bat into a grave, and a cluster of female athletes shoveled dirt on top.

The "funer" was intended to give the nation's first professional women's baseball team to play in the men's minor leagues the confidence to play hardball in the season which begins on Mother's Day, May 8.

Sponsored by Coors Brewing Co, the 25 women of the Colorado Silver Bullets baseball team are the first in U.S. history to be recognised by the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues. The new team will play at least 30 exhibition games against men's teams in 1994.

Cached by Phil Niekro,

a former member of the New York Yankees and Atlanta Braves teams, the women — mostly raised on softball — are trying to absorb skills and strategies in a few weeks that male players have learned since boyhood.

Gina Satriano, 28, a deputy district attorney from the Los Angeles area, said she had no qualms about trading her white collar for a blue uniform and a \$20,000-per-season spot on the team.

"It only took me about half a second to know I didn't want to pass up this opportunity," said Ms. Satriano, who grew up surrounded by baseball. Her father, Tom Satriano, played for the California Angels and the Boston Red Sox teams.

In baseball's early years, women's teams known as "bloomer girls" travelled the nation challenging men's semi-pro and pro teams, but the games were never officially recognised. The all-female team

popularised in the recent movie *A League Of Their Own* played in a private league against other all-female teams in the 1940s.

On June 23, 1953, organised baseball formally banned women from the minor leagues.

But Bullets President Bob Hope (no relation to the entertainer) says it's just a matter of time until a woman plays on a Major League team alongside men. The Bullets "represent a groundbreaking opportunity for female athletes to play ball in the big leagues," Mr. Hope said.

The Bullets held 13 tryouts around the country, drawing some 1,400 women athletes. Most came only with experience in recreational or all-women's league softball, a game of shorter bases and fewer innings.

Of those, 48 potential candidates were chosen for spring training in Orlando, and the list was eventually narrowed to two dozen.

Forget physical conditioning, coaches said. These women needed to learn the basics at spring training.

"They didn't know how to put their uniforms on," said Ray Pelletier, who describes himself as an "attitude coach" hired to boost morale among the athletes.

"If you come up through the farm system, you learn this by watching people do this. Coaches were actually showing them things that basic."

Mr. Niekro and his assistant coaches, who are all male, also had to make some adjustments.

"You cannot get in their face quite the same way because the reaction emotionally is going to be different," said Mr. Pelletier. "Men are quick to anger. Women are quick to hurt."

At a recent practice session, there was a sense of exuberance mixed with nervous energy as the women, ponytails protruding from under baseball caps, swung,

lunged and slid.

Julie Croteau, 23, dropped out of graduate school at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts to join the team. For her it was a chance for some sweet revenge.

Croteau excelled in the Little League of Manassas, Virginia, and played baseball on community teams until age 17. But her high school refused to let her play on the varsity team. She sued and lost.

"By senior year I was very confident I deserved to be on the team, but the varsity coach took me into his office and lectured me for 20 minutes about how I was being selfish," she said.

Other players admitted they weren't sure how to hold the ball when they showed up for the bullets tryout.

Now that the team is set, Mr. Niekro is trying to find ways to help his team win against some big, brawny odds.

"Their pitching has to im-

prove, their hitting has to get better, their arms have to get stronger, their running has to get better," Mr. Niekro acknowledged. "We've got a lot of catching up to do."

The women must not only learn to play good fundamental baseball, but they must learn strategies, such as how to generate runs by the mistakes of the other teams and how to throw more strikes.

At a recent exhibition game, pitcher Lisa Martinez, a high school science teacher, spun her arm in a tight windup and released several slow pitches underhand, a style she learned from softball. Several bewildered men at bat, unaccustomed to a ball coming from underneath, stared at her and struck out.

"There's more than one way to win a ballgame," Mr. Niekro said. "There's nothing in the rulebook that says you can't pitch that way. You can pitch standing on your head if you want to."

Adonis controversy continues

By Mohammad Daoud Tabboub

ADONIS is the pen name of the famous poet Ali Ahmad Said who was born in 1930 in Kassabin village located between Lattakia and Tartus in Syria. He finished his secondary education in Lattakia then moved to Damascus where he got a degree in philosophy from the University of Damascus in 1954. In 1956 he moved to Lebanon because he belonged to the banned political party, the Syrian Nationalist Socialist Party. In 1957 he was granted Lebanese nationality.

In Lebanon Adonis published his poems in *Shier* (Poetry) magazine first and later in *Mawaqef* (Standards) magazine. Adonis's early works were based on the readings of the newly-excavated old heritage of Syria, that of the pre-Islamic civilisations, namely Phoenician and Canaanite, and show the influence as well of Islam and particularly Al Ma'ari, the blind sage of Arab poetry.

In the seventies and the eighties Adonis became a leading figure in modern Arabic poetry. Yet, he was criticised by critics as shifting his thoughts and ideals from one extreme to another.

Adonis has, recently, raised a hot controversy among the cultural circles in Jordan following last year's Granada conference which grouped him and other Arab intellectuals with Israeli writers. The General Secretariat of the Arab Writers Union now based in Amman characterised Adonis's move as a step towards cultural normalisation with Israel. The Union's Secretary General Fakhri Ka'war, has since early this year waged a campaign to force the Jerash Festival's management to withdraw an invitation it forwarded to the poet to attend the festival's poetry forum. Jordanian dailies have, for the last two months, been printing the opinions of both sides — those who are with and those who are against.

In an interview, Dr. Ali Al Share' the dean of the English Village at Yarmouk University and professor of Arabic literature, who is an expert on Adonis's works, said: "The whole picture is unclear. I haven't read minutes of the (Granada) meeting and, therefore, I don't know what Adonis had said there. It would be unjust to judge."

Dr. Share' is for inviting the poet to the Jerash Festival and starting "a free dialogue with him and see what he has to say."

Dr. Ahmad Thaher, professor of political science at Yarmouk University had a different view though. "I wonder why we are afraid of cultural normalisation with the Israelis or with any other society in the world? We have nothing to fear. I believe that a strong culture from within doesn't allow, by its own very nature, anything to pierce it from outside and I believe we should have read long ago Israeli literature, political and economic discourse."

"How could you face an enemy you know nothing about? Look at them. They know almost everything about us simply because they read about us. Arabic is the second language in (Israel)."

Dr. Ibrahim Al Khateeb, gynecologist and poet, thinks Adonis should be heard.

"A poet should have a message in life, more so the Arab poet because he deals or is supposed to deal with such great issues as unity of the nation, freedom and above all the Palestinian problem."

Poet Edward Haddad thinks that a poet should have the freedom to open all doors and to converse with whomever he likes and to tread forbidden places because he is "a human being first before anything else."

"No bans on poets or writers should exist. From this point of view I see no harm done by Adonis sitting at the same table with Israelis, provided he didn't take their side," he asserted.

"I don't know why the General Secretariat of the Arab Writers Union has just now raised this storm about Adonis, while it is a common knowledge that the poet had already attended, several years ago, the Mediterranean conference together with Israeli writers," according to poet Nayef Abu Obeid.

"Why the Arab Writers Union kept silent then? Because, I reckon, those Israeli writers were representing the Israeli left. In Granada it was the reverse. Adonis does not carry the aspirations of the Arab nation for unity and freedom on his shoulders. I see that normalisation with the Israeli enemy is a dangerous process which we have to stand firmly against."

Engineer Ali Deebajah, an observer of the literary scene in Jordan says he believes that even if the Arabs can extend their cultural, economic and political relations with other nations of the world on equal grounds, they shouldn't normalise with "their enemy, who occupies their land."

"I am against Adonis or any other figure who tries to build up bridges between us and the Israeli enemy," he said.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

Out of love you can speak with straight fury — Eudora Welty, American author.

Never vote for a tax bill nor against an appropriations bill — American political maxim.

I would rather live in a world where my life is surrounded by mystery than live in a world so small that my mind could comprehend it — Henry Emerson Fosdick, American clergyman (1878-1969).

The whole secret of life is to be interested in one thing profoundly and in a thousand things well — Horace Walpole, 4th earl of Oxford, English author (1717-1797).

History must speak for itself, a historian is content if he has been able to shed more light — William L. Shirer, American author and journalist 1904-1993).

Ask the young, they know everything — Chinese proverb.

Britain's poets find inspiration in cafes, pubs and on airwaves

By Gareth Jones
Reuter

LONDON — Huddled in the cilia of a West London coffee shop, some 40 people eagerly applauded the steady stream of poets trooping up to the makeshift stage to read their verse in turn.

The roudabout, where cult sinners Bob Dylan and David Iovine have also performed is one of London's growing number of cafes and pubs with poetry on its menu — proof, say enthusiasts, of a "renaissance of verse" in Britain.

"People here are very positive about poetry and all sorts of people are writing it," said Tamar Yosef, an American poet who organises The Troubadours Monday evening readings.

"In the United States, by contrast, poetry is still something more associated with university campuses. It also has fewer major publishers of poetry," she said.

A visitor to the British capital doesn't have to look far for evidence of a poetry revival.

Travellers on the London Underground can read poems — by famous and not-so-famous authors — interspersed between the advertisements for ice cream and the theatre listings.

In the provinces, home to some of the most popular younger poets, new publishing houses dedicated almost solely to poetry have sprung up to help feed the nation's literary appetite.

"Britain has become a nation of poets, not just of amateur aspirants but of accomplished sculptors of words," enthused the Independent newspaper in a recent editorial.

The Independent and other newspapers carry poetry daily. High Street bookstores have been expanding the space allocated to verse.

"There is a place in people's lives now for poetry,

perhaps reflecting a collapse of the old certainties — moral, social, religious," said Chris Meade of the London-based Poetry Society.

"They are looking for more individual responses to help cope with the unending welter of news and information assailing us."

The Poetry Society, founded in 1909 and supported by Britain's state-run arts council, is limbering up for the launch of a month-long promotion — new generation poets.

The promotion will celebrate the work of 20 contemporary poets through television and radio broadcasts and live performances in pubs, schools, libraries and bookshops across the country.

Among the campaign's supporters is Radio 1 FM, which boasts the largest radio audience in Europe with 17 million listeners. It plans to broadcast a series of poetry readings.

"It's often difficult to draw lines between pop and rock lyrics, rap and poetry. Our involvement with new generation poets will allow all three to be heard side by side," said Radio 1 controller Matthew Bannister.

The poets chosen for the spring promotion include one from New York, one from Pakistan, another from Guyana and a German. The rest are English or Scottish.

The Poetry Society's Meade stressed the youthfulness of the 20 poets, adding they were very much at home with modern media like television.

"Gone are the days when poets were expected to be shy, retiring, bookish types. Now they are much more keyed into working with different media," he told Reuters.

"What is exciting about this revival is that it is spread across the country, as are their publishers. "Poetry is no longer an

Oxbridge game," he said, referring to a widely perceived domination of literature in Britain by its ancient universities, Oxford and Cambridge.

Nobody expects to get rich through the promotion, though.

Except for a handful of established writers like poet Laureate Ted Hughes, most aspiring poets still have to hold down a second job because their verse does not necessarily pay well.

However, sales of poetry appear to be going well.

"Of course we're not in the blockbuster league, but poetry sales are roughly on a level pegging with sales of hardback fiction," said Andrew McAllister of poetry publisher Bloodaxe, based in Newcastle, north-east England.

Bloodaxe was publishing only one pamphlet a year when it started up in 1979, he said. It now publishes an average 50 books annually. "We have found a market

out there and are trying to satisfy it," Mr. McAllister said.

Bloodaxe has successfully introduced contemporary poets such as Russia's Irina Ratushinskaya and Czechoslovakia's Miroslav Holub to a British readership, as well as promoting past authors like Russia's Anna Akhmatova and Spain's Federico Garcia Lorca.

In any case, poetry may be just what the doctor ordered.

A British medical study recently told people suffering from anxiety and depression to try reading poetry as an alternative to taking pills.

"I would have thought poetry is far superior to any tablets. Just like music it is therapeutic," said Dr. Alexander Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association.

"The pharmaceutical industry might not like it, of course."

What's in a name? Ask the Beer Lovers

By Candice Hughes
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — There's a soberside to the Beer Lovers Party. It wants to be taken seriously.

But when the Beer Lovers tried to register as a bona fide political party, Justice Ministry officials balked.

"They said our name was too 'unusual' for Russia," said Konstantin Kolachev, 29-year-old secretary-general of the anti-party party.

Few about something more "politically appropriate," someone suggested. Something like the Party of Lovers of Beer and Civic Accord? or the People's Party of Democracy and Bee? Or perhaps the Saus-

age and Vodka Lovers Party?

The Beer Lovers stuck to their steins. Nothing doing, they replied. It's Beer Lovers Party or nothing.

No dice, the ministry said, giving them a month to think it over.

At a suds-soaked news conference recently — the beer was free, naturally — the Beer Lovers said they weren't backing down. "We'll give the ministry another chance," Mr. Kolachev said generously.

Are these guys for real?

Sort of. The party was born over a glass of beer in December after Communists, neo-fascists and assorted other

hardliners romped to victory in parliamentary elections that attracted barely half the electorate.

Mr. Kolachev and party Chairman Dmitry Shestakov, both of whom had run and lost as candidates of moderate parties, read the returns as a massive protest vote, a huge "no" to politics as usual.

What, they wondered as they and a few like-minded friends dissected the election, could everyone be for? They took another sip and it hit them: Beer. What's not to like about a nice, cool, frothy brew?

"If people stop voting altogether, there won't be any democracy to speak of," Mr. Shestakov said.

"There will be a totalitarian regime — or oligarchy."

The party now boasts 10,000 members, a fax machine and a "politburo." It has a position on the Black Sea Fleet issue and friends in high places, among them Sergei Shakhrai, leader of the mainstream Party of Unity and Accord.

"We also like the Sub-Tropical Movement of Russia," Mr. Kolachev said, unable to repress a grin. "Especially their efforts to increase the average temperature. I love summer."

The Beer Lovers plan to hold a party congress this summer and create a worldwide union of beer lovers.

"We're a serious party," Mr. Kolachev insisted. "With humour, with irony. But a serious party."

The challenge for the Beer Lovers is to be taken seriously — without seeming too serious.

They hope to bring the smart, the young and the disaffected back into politics by injecting an element of fun into what has been a deadly dull business so far.

But why beer? Vodka was the beverage of choice for generations of Russian politicians, including the one now in power. It's a serious drink — and one that can make you mean.

Beer, on the other hand, is young, cheap, fun and

democratic. The way the Beer Lovers see it, things would be a lot better if people would just lighten up, pop open a Brewski and talk things over.

So what else do the Beer Lovers stand for? Just about anything that makes life easier for drinking beer, it seems, including lower taxes, full employment and free trade.

The lack of official registration, Mr. Kolachev said, doesn't mean the Beer Lovers will go flat. After all, he pointed out, the next scheduled election is two years away.

"I think even people who never cast a ballot before will vote for the Beer Lovers," he said.

New Jersey pigs used as recycling machines

By Tom Toolen
Reuter

DEPTFORD, New Jersey — Cindy may be dandy, but swine is also fine.

That's how Philadelphia feels about hogs. What is garbage for Philadelphia makes for a moveable feast for New Jersey pigs.

Philadelphia saved \$3 million last year and also reduced its garbage found by allowing its leftover food scraps to be picked for use as meals for New Jersey pigs, which have come to be known as porky recycling machines.

Twice a week, New

Jersey pig farmers make pre-dawn trips into Philadelphia to pick up organic garbage left out by 2,000 Philadelphia households. The farmers, who bid for their routes, bring the garbage back to New Jersey to feed their pigs.

Philadelphia councilwoman Happy Fernandez has been one of the biggest boosters of the food-for-pigs programme.

"Not only do the pigs keep the city's streets cleaner, but they also reduce the amount of money we would have to pay for garbage pickup," said Ms. Fernandez.

The city pays out \$1.9 million to the New Jersey pig farmers for picking up the waste each year, which works out to about \$79 a tonne, said Ms. Fernandez. But the city would have had to pay \$125 a tonne for kerbside recycling of the same food waste.

Last year, the pig farmers picked up 24,000 tonnes of the city's food waste. "It makes me feel real good when I put my organic garbage, knowing I am also recycling food waste and saving the city money at that same time," said Ms. Fernandez.

Actually, the pig-feeding

programme has been in existence since the turn of the century, but it has been accelerated in the past few years, mainly due to the high cost of trash recycling programmes.

"The garbage is a good source of feed, and it's a lot cheaper than corn," said Neil McIntyre Jr, whose 2,500-head, 25 acre (10-hectare) farm in Deptford is one of the state's last pig farms.

Mr. McIntyre said his father began making the rounds searching for pig food in Philadelphia more than 50 years ago.

"We leave here at 3:30 in

the morning," he said, arriving in Philadelphia about 20 minutes later. "Basically, we go early to avoid traffic."

Mr. McIntyre is one of 16 farmers enrolled in the programme.

Mr. McIntyre sends workers to drive his two trucks, which cruise the streets of north-eastern Philadelphia for several hours. They usually collect five or six tonnes a load.

The waste is cooked before it is dumped in the troughs for the pigs. The pig farmers pick up all food waste, including bones, rinds, egg shells, fruit and

vegetable scraps, or any scraps from food preparation.

"You know pigs, they will eat just about anything," said Ms. Fernandez. However, she pointed out no coffee grinds, glass, paper or plastic are accepted.

There are about 2,000 households enrolled in the programme, and they must place the waste in a five- to 10-gallon (20- to 40-litre) can the night before the pickup.

So, twice a week, as dawn breaks in Philadelphia, a lot of animals think New Jersey is hog heaven.

A risky occupation

By Jean-Claude Elias

For the past five years or so, numerous articles and stories have appeared in international newspapers and magazines on the subject of repetitive strain injuries (RSI). These come as the consequence of continuous and repetitive physical activity in someone's regular work or occupation.

The taxi driver who spends days behind the steering wheel is the ideal candidate for lumbago. Tennis professionals are all subject to the famous tennis elbow. Computer users are even "luckier" than others for they risk more than one type of RSI.

Needless to say that, by definition, RSI-subject people are those who spend, on a daily basis, a certain number of hours using a computer — four hours at least, for instance.

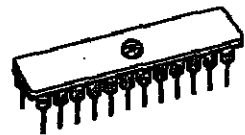
In the late eighties, Scandinavian countries caused a stir by declaring that, because of the radiation (electromagnetic, not radio-active) emitted by the screen, long hours before a computer screen can be teratogenic for pregnant women. Though never scientifically proven, the issue forced manufacturers to design screens with lower levels of radiation. Now "low radiation" monitors are becoming a standard and everyone is benefiting from the improved product. The new screens are certainly more comfortable than the ones produced in the eighties.

RSI due to keyboard typing are very frequent. Anyone who has spent, even once, five continuous hours entering data from a personal computer (PC) keyboard knows how his wrists, hands, arms and even his neck feel at the end of such a long working session.

Just like an American smoker used cigarette manufacturers years ago, blaming them for his lung cancer, PC users are suing computer manufacturers for RSI.

Bill Machrone, a specialised writer, thinks that "anyone who is mentally predisposed to RSI will suffer more than one who is not" (May 1994 issue of PC Magazine). In other words, if you like your machine,

chip talk



feel comfortable when using it and keep both your mind and body relaxed when working, you drastically reduce the chances of RSI. One can't but agree with Mr. Machrone.

A healthy mental attitude is not enough, however. There are simple, practical steps one can take that can help dramatically reduce the RSI risk factor.

It is easy to make it a habit, during long working sessions, to take one's eyes from the screen even for a few seconds. Every five or 10 minutes, and for three to five seconds, look at the window, at the floor, at the painting on the wall, at anything but the computer. These short seconds will make a huge difference at the end of the day, in terms of eye strain. Make sure there is enough light in the room, to reduce the contrast coming from the screen.

Make sure you are sitting at the right height, that your chair is ergonomically designed — it's not a luxury but a necessity. There should be enough space on the table, by the keyboard, to rest your wrists while typing. The keyboard and the screen also should be placed at the correct heights. Normally, the monitor should be 13 to 15 inches higher than the keyboard. It is of prime importance for long, daily hours of computing.

It does not make much sense to blame PC manufacturers for any type or form of RSI. They never told us to work 10 hours in a row, nor to use the keyboard in some exotic yoga position.

What does it mean to be poor?

By E. Yaghi

Recently, a middle aged woman was led into the office of a prominent ophthalmologist by her young son. When she saw the doctor, she stated, "please help me, my eyes hurt me very badly."

The doctor looked concerned and replied: "What's the matter, don't you have glasses?"

"I do," answered the woman in a tired and worn out voice, "but they're broken."

"Well," he said as he pushed himself back in his chair and studied her intently: "Why don't you go and buy some new glasses?"

Isn't life simple for those who live comfortably? But Nuhail not being one of the lucky ones, found life a living hell. How could she explain her desperate situation to someone who collected more money in a day than she would ever see in a year? She could only say with a face that felt like fire and a growing lump in her throat: "You see doctor, my husband is old and ill. His first wife didn't have any children for many years and then when he grew elderly, he married me and now we have children. Things were difficult but not impossible until my husband fell sick. Now I have no means to buy glasses and I can hardly see at all. My eyes are killing me and there is no way to stop the pain."

Had Nuhail touched his conscience? It seemed so, for he hastily scribbled some words on a piece of paper and told her to go to an optometrist and give it to him. She almost stumbled out of his office and though she still felt pain, it appeared as if a slight weight had been lifted from her troubled heart.

After she travelled by one bus and then another, she finally reached her destination and hot and tired and aching all over, handed an optometrist the paper which she had clasped tightly in her fist. Her faithful son and guide stood by her side waiting for her next command. After the optometrist read the paper he said to Nuhail: "Look, I sell these glasses for JD 60 but I'll give them to you at retail price which is JD 38."

What are a mere JD 38? He thought he had done her a great service, which in a way he had, but quite crestfallen, she could only sadly reply: "I'm afraid that I don't have JD 38, sir."

He could only suggest, "then why don't you go back

to the doctor and tell him your problem?"

What choice did she have, she thought. Her eyes were killing her and the pain drove her to forget her pride and beg help and mercy from anyone she could. When she finally arrived back at the doctor's she approached him declaring: "The man who sells glasses asked for JD 38."

"So," he retorted, "that's good since they cost around JD 60. I think."

"Yes, that's good for someone who has JD 38. I have nothing, not even JD 10."

While she spoke, she noticed a blurred form sitting next to the doctor. He was a plumber who worked very hard for his money. The doctor, perhaps feeling a bit generous, said with a reluctant huff: "Here take this!"

He handed her JD 28. She, embarrassed, could only say: "Thank you for your kindness, but where shall I get the rest?"

The plumber who spends his days crawling under sinks, and climbing up sides of houses in order to feed his large family stuck his hand towards her and said: "Here, poor woman. Take these JD 10 from my family and me. May God relieve your misery and pain."

Nuhail took the money and before she departed with her son said in a voice ripe to tears: "May God bless you both! You don't know how much you have helped me."

She turned and disappeared forever from their sight but the plumber couldn't forget her shaggy dusty appearance nor her plight of poverty. Some patients in the waiting room later told him: "We haven't ever seen poorer than this woman. She lives in a tin shack with her sick husband and children. During Ramadan one of her neighbours visited her and found the wretched family breaking their fast on tea and bread. Some neighbours felt sorry for them and sent for them and sent them food from time to time."

Can such extreme cases of poverty exist in Jordan? What can we do to help such people? It is a shame that the sun never shines on Nuhail while many live lives of complete luxury. Poverty isn't something that exists in a Never Never Land to people that are subhuman. There must be some kind of government relief for women like Nuhail. She and her family not only hardly have enough food to survive on, but are victims of the cold of winter and heat of summer. Nuhail's problem is everyone's and we are all our brothers/sisters' keepers.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

FANTASTIC FACTS

- ☐ Mice would stay alive without water for much longer time than camels.
- ☐ A litre of vinegar weighs more in winter than in summer.
- ☐ The meat of the kangaroo never contains cholesterol.
- ☐ The power of modern telescope exceeds that of Galileo's.
- ☐ The crocus can push its way in growth even through layers of macadamised roads.
- ☐ Rivers exist in the ocean as well as on dry land.
- ☐ Toads, in distinction from frogs, have no teeth.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- You're an idle man, aren't you?
Anta rajel kassal, alyan kassal?
— No, I'm very active.
La, aan machad fidlan.
— Is your daughter ill?
Hal banatka marwada?
— No, she enjoys good health.
La, banatka tatanatla baah'ha tanyaha.
— Is your neighbour poor?
Hal jarka fakir?
— He's neither poor nor rich.
Layan fakir wala ghani.
— Is your fat big?
Hal shakikatka kabira?
— No, it's small.
La, banatka saghira.
— Is the cheese fresh?
Hal al jaban tawfiq?
— Why are you angry?
Lamma anta ghadham?
— Somebody got on my nerves.
Shakham ana aghara anabi.
— Is the nurse inside?
Hal al-mumarrida fid-dahab?
— No, she went out five minutes ago.
La, kharajat mimmu khamsal-dakika.
— I'll see her tomorrow morning.
Sawfa araka ghadha subhan.
— You're welcome.
Ablan wa sahlun.

AN INVITATION TO LAUGHTER

- ★ A man rushed into the doctor's surgery, jumped on the doctor's back and began shouting: "One! Two! Three! Four!"
- "Wait a minute!" yelled the doctor, struggling to free himself. "What do you think you're doing?"
- "Well, doctor," said the eccentric man, "they said I could count on you!"

- ★ Two friends were out hunting grouse. A bird suddenly flew out of the bracken right before their eyes; one of the men raised his gun and fired. The grouse uttered a despairing squawk, its wings folded and it fluttered to the ground.
- "You needn't have shot it!" said the other man. "The fall would have killed it!"

- ★ A motorist who had the misfortune to run over a woman's dog was extremely apologetic. "I really am most terribly sorry, madam," he said. "I will of course replace your dog."
- "If you like," she replied, "but are you any good at catching rats?"

- ★ "Sarah," said the teacher, "what is a cannibal?"
- "Dunno, Miss."
- "Well, if you were to eat your parents, what would you be?"
- "An orphan, Miss."

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- (1) Identify the following cities:
a- Eternal City.
b- Windy City.
c- City of the 1000 Minarets.
d- City of Light.
e- City of Brotherly Love
f- The Big Apple
- (2) (i) On what island was Napoleon born (1769)?
(ii) What island was Napoleon exiled to in 1814?
(iii) On what island did Napoleon die in 1821?
- (3) KLM is the national airline of what country? What does the abbreviation stand for?
- (4) "March on, March on" is the title of what country's national anthem?
- (5) Who is called the Father of the Blues?

PUZZLES

(A) How is your vocabulary?

The following ten pairs of words have three letters in common. Fill in the blank spaces to make twenty different words, according to the definitions below.

- | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------|
| ...CAN | 1 | NAC... |
| ...CAN. | 2 | ...NAC. |
| ...CAN.. | 3 | ...NAC.. |
| ...CAN... | 4 | ...NAC... |
| ...CAN.... | 5 | ...NAC.... |
| ...CAN..... | 6 | ...NAC..... |
| ...CAN..... | 7 | ...NAC..... |
| ...CAN..... | 8 | ...NAC..... |
| ...CAN..... | 9 | ...NAC..... |
| ...CAN..... | 10 | ...NAC..... |

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| LEFT | RIGHT |
| 1. The Pope's palace | 1. The lace of mother-of-pearl |
| 2. To comment at great length | 2. Unperformed |
| 3. Mysterious | 3. A handcuff |
| 4. Malicious gossip | 4. An enclosed fireplace |
| 5. To solicit orders | 5. Noted lake in N.Y. state |
| 6. A portable flask | 6. Yearbook |
| 7. Scrutinised | 7. A familiar vegetable |
| 8. Emptyings | 8. Threatened |
| 9. To cheat | 9. The establisher of a law |
| 10. A long-billed water bird | 10. Outer casing of aircraft engine |

(B) Find the missing number: 10 18 28 40 ?

COOKING IS FUN

MINI CHEESE fillers

INGREDIENTS

- 4 oz wholemeal flour
- 1 oz polyunsaturated margarine
- 1 oz vegetable shortening
- 2 oz low fat cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 oz button mushrooms, sliced
- 2 oz sweetcorn
- 1 egg, beaten
- 5 fl oz skimmed milk

METHOD

Mix together the flour and a pinch of salt in a mixing bowl. Rub the margarine and shortening into the mixture until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Stir in the cheese and just enough water to form a soft dough. Knead gently, cover and chill for 30 minutes.

Roll out the pastry to 1/8 inch thick, cut out twelve 3-inch circles and use to line twelve small tartlet tins. Fry the onion in the oil for 5 minutes until softened. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Pour into the tartlet cases and bake at Mark 6-200°C-400°F for 20-25 minutes.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 5

7:45 Gillette World Sports Special

9:10 Bony

Outrage

An accident at a chemical plant, which releases poisonous materials, raises Bony's suspicions as to who would benefit from this accident!

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — Rear Window

Starring: Grace Kelly and James Stewart

Spending idle days in a wheel-chair watching people, a helpless journalist happens to be a witness to a murder. Upon his request, two of his friends start investigating. This is an Alfred Hitchcock film.

Friday, May 6

8:00 Sixty Minutes

9:10 Scene Of The Crime

The Wearing Of The Green

A Zealous Irishman offers to plant a bomb in the British embassy in Washington.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Black Powder

Abu-Tawfiq turns a deaf ear to appeals by his workers for better pay, and health insurance benefits. Abu Adel spends his last day at the quarry.

Saturday, May 7

7:45 Charlie Chaplin

8:30 The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air

Day Damn One

William amuses the kids by telling them old stories about his early days at the Bel-Air Academy.

9:00 The Campbells

Whaw, The Bough Breaks

A baby boy, left at the doorstep of Thomas' house, creates rows and arguments as to who will have the baby... and who and where his parents are.

10:00 News In English



Grace Kelly and James Stewart in the film Rear Window Thursday at 10:20

10:20 The Last Bastion

The film illustrates the massive conflicts of the nations involved in World War II.

Sunday, May 8

7:45 Hotchpotch

JTV's weekly entertaining magazine programme hosted by Manal Azar.

8:30 You Bet Your Life

A weekly quiz show with Bill Cosby.

8:55 Documentary Programme — Zero One

9:10 Stolen Lives

Dawn's search for her parents leads her to unpleasant facts.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Island Son

Separation

A diabetic risks losing a leg; Dr. Catheline faces a case of "mercy killing"; and Dr. Keilani faces the possibility of losing his woman.

Monday, May 9

7:45 Science World

8:30 The Nanny

Nuch Ship

Maggies' father agrees to his daughter going out with Eddie, on condition that the nanny chaperons them.

9:10 Pandora's Box

A Is For Atom

The programme deals with the competition between the USA and the former Soviet Union over nuclear supremacy; proposals towards the peaceful use of the nuclear bomb and the fear of nuclear power control passing from the hands of the scientists to the industrialists.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Black Powder

Abu Sakeb is arrested for an attempted murder while 'Adel returns home after years spent abroad, only to become trapped into the personal rivalries among the quarry workers.

11:10 Top Cops

This week police officers recall their heroic stories about how one catches drug smugglers, another prevents bank robbers from carrying out their plan and how one saves a husband and wife from being kidnapped.

Tuesday, May 10

7:45 Medicinal Drugs

8:30 Step By Step

The Paper Chase

J.T. is in trouble for selling books to the football team at school while Carol and Kodie try to be good babysitters.

8:55 Documentary — Beyond 2000

9:10 Moon Over Miami

Black River Bride

Walter and his team are up

against a case of "lost memory". A young girl, saved from drowning, seems to have forgotten everything about her past.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Cape Rebel

The Challenge Of Arende Sleuth's wife is tempted to reveal his hiding place while he is awaiting acquittal from the murder charge.

11:10 The Second Half

Halloween

The newspaper staff — including John, his daughters and brother — celebrate Halloween... each in his own style.

Wednesday, May 11

7:45 Great Moments In Science and Technology

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

Health and city council inspectors are after the kids for violating the law, and making and selling cookies at home.

9:05 The Best Of Major

9:30 The Work Of The Thirties

10:00 News In English

10:20 Poldark

Demelza and Ross celebrate the arrival of their baby girl, Julia, whose presence now is helping her father's plans and projects at the copper mines.

11:10 A music show featuring the British singer Paul McCartney.

مكتبة من اجل

Will the nineties be the death of Agent 007?

By Paul Harris
Reuter

LONDON — The power-mad masterminds of Spectre couldn't manage it.

But where the shadowy crime organisation failed in the course of many rip-roaring adventures, a changing world may succeed.

The 1990s could be the death of indestructible British super-spy James Bond.

The end of the cold war and the rise of AIDS and political correctness cast doubts on Agent 007's two main objectives of making love to beautiful women

and outwitting the Russians.

British actor Timothy Dalton quit the role this month after appearing in only two Bond films in eight years.

Previous Bonds Sean Connery and Roger Moore made seven each and became household names in the film series which has earned a record \$1 billion worldwide.

"I believe it is time to leave the wonderful image behind and accept the challenge of creating new ones," Dalton said.

Some commentators have said the "wonderful image"

of the fast-living British spy with a licence to kill has no place in the 1990s.

"In a political sense Bond is dated. The films do spring from a cold war world view. The films' view of women is utterly out of date," said Hugo Davenport, film critic of the Daily Telegraph.

Respected actress Honor Blackman, who played Bond Girl Pussy Galore in the 1964 Connery film Goldfinger said: "I really wish they didn't continue with Bond girls, because it is not the most admirable part of James' character."

The films are loosely based on plots and characters from novels by Ian Fleming. In the films Fleming's Russian spy organisation, Smersh, became Spectre lead by the evil genius Blofeld.

Dalton was chosen to bring Fleming's original style to the films, giving Bond a harder edge and placing less reliance on gimmicky gadgets, special effects and frequent sex.

Dalton's films, The Living Daylights and Licence To Kill, were different from those starring Moore and Connery, such as The Spy Who Loved Me and From Russia With Love. The Russians were no longer the enemy and the Bond girls were genuine characters, not just pretty faces.

Now the hunt is on to find a new Bond and his first mission is to be a hit with 1990s film-goers.



Roger Moore with Jane Seymour in the Bond film Live And Let Die

"You can't stay stuck while the rest of the world moves around you. But Bond can change, that is one of the film's great strengths," said Amanda Schofield of Eon Productions, which with producer Cubby Broccoli, has made 16 Bond films since 1962. They begin filming their 17th later this year.

The trend towards a realistic, less frivolous character is expected to continue.

"There is no reason to change the direction the films are going. Dalton was very good, he is my favourite Bond," said Schofield.

But some do not want to see Bond change. Graham

Rye runs the James Bond 007 Fan Club and Archive. "People don't want to see realism. The success of the Bond films was based on fantasy. People want to see great stunts, brilliant sets and beautiful, accessible women," he said.

Mr. Rye believes Bond can defeat the challenge of Hollywood action heroes like Arnold Schwarzenegger, whose stunt-packed film Terminator 2 cost a record \$95 million.

"American films don't have Bond's British class and beautifully designed sets. Bond should lead the film world, not follow," he said.

Bookmakers William Hill also believe Bond has a different appeal from

American action films. Schwarzenegger and Rambo star Sylvester Stallone are both 50-1 outsiders to be the next Bond.

Since 1988 Mr. Rye has run the fan club as a six-day-a-week full-time job. It has 2,500 members in 42 countries and sends out a magazine three times a year to more than 4,000 people.

Mr. Rye wants to see the next Bond film go back to the old swashbuckling style. "I hope it will, but I suspect it won't. They (Bond film makers) seem to have the idea that it is based on realism," he said.

Some things have not changed. The new, grittier Bond will still need sex appeal.

"Bond is suave and soph-



Sean Connery as James Bond

isticated. He has to be a gentleman but there has to be a tough side to him too," said Ms. Schofield.

Irish actor Pierce Brosnan is the bookmakers' 2-1 favourite to be the fifth Bond. Many believe he would please critics from both sides of the debate.

Fleming described Bond as blue-eyed, tall and black haired with a complexion tanned by foreign climates. Brosnan's dark, brooding looks make him Mr. Rye's

number one choice to continue the Bond tradition.

"No one else is even close. He has the look a great Bond should have. He can also carry off the cutting wit," said Mr. Rye.

It seems Bond will always be as lethal with a one-liner as he is with a Walther PPK. And according to Mr. Rye he will need to be.

"There'll always be a megalomaniac somewhere trying to take over the world," he said.

Summer movies: Familiar genres feature unfamiliar faces

By John Horn
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — If you can describe a movie in a sentence, odds are it's coming out this summer.

John Goodman is Fred Flintstone. Bingo. The Flintstones.

Eddie Murphy plays that detective again. No sweat.

Beverly Hills Cop III. Mel Gibson remakes the James Garner TV western. Easy, Maverick.

The summer film season is packed with an assortment of no-brainers, easy-to-sell sequels and lowbrow star vehicles.

Billy Crystal returns in City Slickers and there's yet another Karate Kid update

(without the karate kid himself, since he's now in his 30s). Watch for a movie version of Lassie and be warned now: Keanu Reeves has the title role in Little Buddha.

Nearly 60 movies will be released nationally between Memorial Day and Labour Day. The most notable summer titles include Disney's animated The Lion King, Arnold Schwarzenegger's \$100 million gamble True Lies and the late comedian John Candy's last movie, Wagons East.

It's the year's most profitable season, and the studios aren't about to gamble.

Except a little.

In the year's most surprising casting decisions, a couple of Hollywood's most respected performers — Jeff Bridges and Meryl Streep — are setting aside their typically somber and often obscure screen images to anchor two of the season's highest-profile movie thrillers.

Following last year's little-seen Fearless and the small independent film American Heart, Bridges will star in July 1's Blown Away as the leader of the

Boston bomb squad. Streep, whose credits include the Australian story A Cry In The Dark and the epic Out Of Africa, chucks her various accents to play an American whitewater guide in the action film The River Wild, due in August. Ever the method actress, Streep even did her own stunt work.

Audiences will have the last word on whether the casting-against-type works. The movies' directors are confident it does.

"I just thought it would be a lot of fun to see her doing something so different from the perceived persona that she has," says Curtis Hanson, who directed Streep in The River Wild.

"I'm a big fan of Meryl, and I don't mean this to be pejorative, but I felt that many times people have admired her acting and the characters she has played without identifying so much with those characters. And I thought if we could put her in a movie where the audience really gets sucked in to identify with her... that we would have something that would really be

special."

Streep plays Gail Hartman, whose failing marriage to David Strathairn is as turbulent as the rapids where the family vacations. The whitewater expedition turns calamitous when the Hartmans meet up with bad guy Kevin Bacon.

Filed on Oregon's Rogue and Montana's Kootenai and Flathead Rivers, "The River Wild aims to turn the usual male action story upside-down."

"First of all, (Streep's) character is a wife and mother, which are trapping the typical male action hero does not bring along," Hanson says.

"What motivates Meryl's character in this whole story is taking a trip to bring her family closer together. ...It ends up being about that — but in a very different way than was anticipated."

Bridges previously played opposite Clint Eastwood in 1974's Thunderbolt And Lightfoot and Glenn Close in 1985's Jagged Edge. For the most part, however, the actor has shunned such mainstream roles in favour of modest stories driven by interesting characters and thoughtful screenplays — in other words, nobody sees his movies.

That may change this summer.

In Blown Away, a big-budget story from recently moribund MGM, Bridges' bomb-squad expert must outwit and survive a fiendish bomber, played by Tommy Lee Jones.

"I expressed an interest in Jeff and Tommy to play the roles and I thought they both would say no because at that time neither was known as an action star," says Blown Away director Stephen Hopkins. Jones had not yet appeared in The Fugitive when Blown Away was cast.

Hopkins, whose credits include Predator 2 and Judgment Night, says Blown Away hopes to distinguish itself from other action films by focusing as much on story as on pyrotechnics.

"A lot of the people in the film are much more real than we are used to," Hop-



Eddie Murphy (left) in Beverly Hills Cop II

kins says. "In my other films, it's usually 'blow up large areas of real estate and kill as many people as possible.'"

Blown Away, he says, "looks different. It doesn't look like it's going to be a big slugfest. In some ways, it's funnier. A lot of the fun stuff in the film is suspense — and the suspense won't work if the characters are not conceived well."

Actors such as Bridges and Streep aren't the only ones charting new courses this summer. Director Robert Zemeckis, familiar for the Back To The Future movies, is directing what appears to be one of the summer's more original and heartfelt stories.

Forrest Gump, opening July 15, stars Philadelphia Oscar winner Tom Hanks as a simple-minded hero of war and business not cut from the usual matinee idol pattern.

Co-starring Robin Wright, Forrest Gump cannot be easily described: It tries to mine a new storytelling vein. Facing such simply sold concept movies as City Slickers 2 and The Flintstones, Forrest Gump ends up looking unusual — and tricky to promote.

"I think people ultimately want to see things that

are different. That's my feeling about it," Zemeckis says.

Many summer movies, Zemeckis concedes, "already have pre-sell. They're already in the public consciousness. So when you have a movie like Forrest Gump, yep, it's a real

tough one. But then I think it's very rewarding: It becomes a two-phased, very hard thing to do.

"First, you have to make a movie that people really enjoy. Then you have to get the word out to them," he says. "You can't just do one without the other."



Arnold Schwarzenegger

LIST OF SUMMER MOVIES

By The Associated Press

BETWEEN Memorial Day and Labour Day, the major Hollywood studios and independents will release nearly 60 major motion pictures. Release dates are subject to change, and several films will debut in limited markets before moving nationally:

- May 25: Beverly Hills Cop III, Eddie Murphy.
- May 27: The Flintstones, John Goodman.
- Sometime in June: Me Let's Hope I Make It, Lina Wertmüller, director.
- June 1: The Cowboy Way, Woody Harrelson.
- June 3: Renaissance Man, Danny DeVito; Endless Summer II: The Journey Continues, Bruce Brown, director.
- June 10: City Slickers 2, Billy Crystal; Go Fish, Rose Troche, director; Speed, Keanu Reeves.
- June 15: The Lion King, animated.
- June 17: Getting Even With Dad, Macaulay Culkin; Wolf, Jack Nicholson, Michelle Pfeiffer; Airheads, Steve Buscemi; White, Julie Delpy; Fear Of A Black Hat, rap group N.W.A.
- June 24: Wyatt Earp, Kevin Costner.
- June 29: I Love Trouble, Julia Roberts.
- Sometime in July: The Shadow, Alec Baldwin; D.R.O.P. Squad, Spike Lee, producer.
- July 1: Blown Away, Jeff Bridges; Baby's Day Out, Joe Mantegna.
- July 8: Angels In The Outfield, Danny Glover; North, Elijah Wood; Lassie, Helen Slater; It Could

Happen To You, Nicolas Cage.

- July 15: Forrest Gump, Tom Hanks; True Lies, Arnold Schwarzenegger; Mi Vida Loca, Alison Anders, director.
- July 20: Little Big League, Jason Robards; Black Beauty, David Thewlis.
- July 22: Terminal Velocity, Charlie Sheen; The Client, Susan Sarandon.
- July 27: Milk Money, Melanie Griffith.
- July 29: A Low Down Dirty Shame, Keenen Ivory Wayans; Yellow Dog, Mimi Rogers; The Mask, Jim Carrey; Camilla, Bridget Fonda.
- Aug. 3: The Scout, Albert Brooks.
- Aug. 5: Natural Born Killers, Woody Harrelson; Camp Nowhere, Christopher Lloyd; Karate Kid 4, Pat Morita.
- Aug. 12: Clear And Present Danger, Harrison Ford; A Troll In Central Park, animated; Jerky Boys, Kamal.
- Aug. 19: Andre, Keith Carradine; Corrina Corrina, Whoopi Goldberg; Blankman, Damon Wayans.
- Sometime in August: The River Wild, Meryl Streep; The Little Rascals, Steven Spielberg, producer; Wagons East, John Candy; In The Army Now, Pauly Shore; Ed Wood, Johnny Depp; Simple Twist Of Fate, Steve Martin; Little Buddha, Keanu Reeves; Pulp Fiction, Uma Thurman; Highlander III: The Magician, Christopher Lambert; Queen Margot, Isabelle Adjani; Barcelona, Whit Stillman, director.
- Sept. 2: It's Pat: The Movie, Julia Sweeney.

Researchers find gene that controls biological clock in mouse

By Paul Reccer
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A gene for the internal clock that sends the body wake-up alarms in the morning and brings on slumber at night has been located in laboratory mice, a finding that may prompt a similar discovery in humans.

Joseph Takahashi of Northwestern University, senior author of a report published in the journal *Science*, said the research could lead to drugs that will

overcome jet lag, keep night workers from falling asleep on the job and solve narcolepsy, one of the most common sleep disorders.

The biological clock, located in the brain, controls the daily, or circadian, rhythms of life. It somehow triggers changes that invigorate or slow down the body on a 24-hour cycle. It is the circadian rhythm that is disrupted by rapid flight across time zones, causing jet lag.

Circadian rhythms have long fascinated and con-

founded scientists, prompting research into sleep and into how humans adapt to daylight and darkness. But the work by Dr. Takahashi and his group is the first to locate in a mammal the gene that plays a key role in the cycle.

Dr. Takahashi said researchers in his lab located the gene by finding and then breeding mice that lacked the gene.

"We isolated the mutation which affects the circadian clock in the mouse," he said. "With this muta-

tion, the mouse loses (its) circadian rhythm completely."

The gene was located by an ingenious system that measured the circadian rhythm of 300 mice automatically at the same time.

Dr. Takahashi said that exercise wheels in each of the mouse cages were connected to a computer. When each mouse awoke and started exercising, a switch was thrown that recorded the time.

"They all started within a minute or two of the same

time each day," he said. Except for one mouse.

Researchers discovered that this rodent started an hour later each day. When it was bred, some of its descendants also started late.

By comparing the genetic pattern of the prompt and the tardy mice, Dr. Takahashi said they located a single mutation in an area of Chromosome 5.

More mice were bred until there were lab animals that contained double mutations in the Chromo-

somes 5, which means they had no normal gene for the circadian rhythm.

These mice started their exercise four hours later each day, evidence of a body clock ticking completely different than that of the average mouse. Eventually, said Dr. Takahashi, the mice with double mutations lost all regularity in their daily activity. Their biological clock was broken.

Dr. Takahashi said it is fortunate that the clock

gene is on mouse Chromosome 5. Other researchers already have established that this chromosome carries many of the functions found on human Chromosome 4. He said researchers now can narrow the search for the human body clock gene.

Once the gene is isolated and cloned, Dr. Takahashi said researchers will be able to identify the protein that it produces. This protein could then, perhaps, be used to create a drug that would permit control of the

circadian rhythm in humans.

"This could be very important," said Dr. Jean-Paul Spire, professor of neurology at the University of Chicago and head of a sleep disorder treatment service. "This is the clock that makes us all tick and it was only located about 10 years ago."

Science, which published the Takahashi study, is the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

By Andrew Kelly
Reuters

WHO sounds alarm over new threat from an old killer

THE HAGUE — Tuberculosis causes more deaths than AIDS, malaria and cholera combined, but the United Nations' health agency says the world has largely ignored it.

Despite a cheap and effective cure, the World Health Organisation (WHO) says years of neglect have allowed the disease to spread and potent drug-resistant strains to emerge.

"For almost everybody it's been a low priority," Richard Bumgarner, deputy manager of the WHO Tuberculosis Programme, told Reuters during a visit to the Hague.

Rich countries have overlooked tuberculosis in their

foreign aid programmes and poor countries have also placed it near the bottom of their agenda. Tuberculosis control projects have consequently suffered from a shortage of money.

"We have been living hand to mouth, begging for the odd \$100,000 or \$200,000 here and there," Dr. Bumgarner said.

The WHO has called on rich countries to provide an extra \$100 million a year to help poor countries fight the disease, saying this would save 12 million lives over the next 10 years.

If its plan is not adopted,

the agency says, the annual number of tuberculosis deaths will rise to four million a year by 2004 from three million a year now.

In 1990 aid donors spent \$185 million on fighting AIDS in developing countries but only \$16 million on tuberculosis, though it killed five times as many people.

The World Bank has concluded that tuberculosis control is one of the most cost-effective forms of treatment, costing as little as \$0.90 for each year added to a patient's life.

"If you want value for money, tuberculosis is a fabulous disease to invest in," Dr. Bumgarner said.

Unfortunately many doctors and public health officials have viewed it as unworthy of their attention.

"Let's face it, it's not very sexy to deal with an old infectious disease like TB... Its old, its dirty, it affects poor people who don't vote," Dr. Bumgarner said.

The WHO itself was partly to blame for failing to convey clearly the costs and benefits of tuberculosis control, he said.

That has changed. The

agency is promoting a six-month course of treatment which can cure a patient and prevent him or her from infecting others for as little as \$13.

Well-run programmes have already enabled countries such as China, Chile, Honduras, Malawi, Malaysia and Tanzania to achieve cure rates of 80 per cent or more.

Patients must be carefully supervised because failure to complete the treatment can give rise to drug-resistant strains of the disease which can be costly or impossible to cure.

Drug resistance develops when a patient does not finish the course of medicine, allowing some germs to survive and multiply after they have acquired resistance to the drugs.

"Health workers must directly observe the swallowing of those drugs, record it in a special ledger and supervise and analyse that ledger," Dr. Bumgarner said.

Whenever a correctly administered programme is put into place it quickly brings tangible results.

"Most medical programmes are evaluated in terms of the resources they use, but in TB we count the number of people cured, not the number of pills given," Dr. Bumgarner said.

Bangladesh troops fight malaria as well as insurgency

By Nadeem Qadir
Agence France Presse

KHAGRACHARI, Bangladesh — Hundreds of Bangladeshi troops and officials stationed in this rugged frontier hill district fight a dual battle: Against armed insurgents and malaria-carrying mosquitos. "I was struck with malaria 21 times during the past two-and-a-half years," said policeman Firoze, posted in this southeastern Buddhist tribal district. He said the bouts with malaria have weakened him, and he now suffers from headaches and giddiness.

A doctor in a local army medical corps (AMC) unit said more than 1,000 of the troops in the area are infected by the disease every year, in addition to thousands of police and other officials in the district.

"No one is spared here from malaria and 10 to 12 per cent of the attacked die," he said, adding he could not give centralised figures of dead or stricken victims.

Tribesman Prew Chakma of a nearby village also suffers from the disease and said he was taking herbal medicine.

"Sometimes we go to the government hospital but generations have survived with herbal medicines," he said.

Nasir Ahmad Chowdhury, a doctor at a government hospital here, said there were a large number of malaria cases in the region comprising Khagrachari and neighbouring Rangamati and Bandarban districts, bordering India and Burma.

"Tribal (people) treat themselves with indigenous medicines because they are largely uneducated and do not trust modern medicines," he said.

Dr. Chowdhury, a

Bengali-speaking Muslim from the plain, said a common strain of malaria was the deadly plasmodium falciparum, transmitted by large-size bush mosquitos. It causes cerebral malaria which affects the brain.

"Basic treatment is Quinine," he said.

Other strains of malaria repeatedly affect the same person "mostly because of inadequate or terminated treatments," he said.

Dr. Chowdhury said of the total reported cases, 40 per cent are cerebral malaria, and of these five per cent are fatal.

An AMC medic said security forces who contract cerebral malaria are mostly taken by army helicopters to a nearby military hospital in Chittagong.

Malaria, doctors said, was rampant the year-round, and basically had no age bar, although children were more vulnerable.

"It has also a psychological impact on troops who remains under great pressure" while on duty in remote jungles where mosquitos are frequent, Dr. Chowdhury said.

Debaranjan Chakma, a local tribesman, said he had lost two of his children due to "high fever," and that currently a third one was suffering.

"I don't know what (disease) it is, but (we are) giving the child herbal medicine... maybe we will go to hospital if she becomes too sick," he said of his young daughter.

The World Health Organisation says malaria has returned with a vengeance around the world after a mass eradication campaign in the late 1970s.

According to Health Ministry estimates quoted in 1987, malaria had returned to 49 of Bangladesh's 64 districts. It killed 155 people in 1986.

Science 'hugely ignorant' about TB

By John Mastroianni
Reuters

PRAGUE — Scientists remain baffled by the global re-emergence of tuberculosis (TB), especially by drug-resistant strains of the deadly disease, a top U.S. researcher said.

"The state of scientific ignorance in the pathogene-

sis of TB is enormous. We really don't know how the organism enters the body, attaches to tissue cells, invades, survives, grows, spreads," Dr. Barry Bloom told the opening session of the sixth international congress for infectious diseases.

"Fundamentally we don't have any idea why tuberculosis kills cells, causes dis-

ease, kills people, nor has any single gene been identified that is known to be responsible for the virulence of this organism."

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared a worldwide health emergency on tuberculosis, the airborne disease thought to have been virtually eradicated less than a

decade ago.

The WHO called on rich countries to provide an extra \$100 million a year to help poor countries fight the disease, saying this would save 12 million lives over the next 10 years.

If its plan is not adopted, the agency says, the annual number of TB deaths will rise to four million a year by

2004 from three million a year now.

In 1990 rich countries spent \$185 million on fighting AIDS in developing countries but only \$16 million on tuberculosis though it killed five times as many people.

Dr. Bloom, who is in charge of tuberculosis research at the Albert Einstein Clinic in New York, told hundreds of his colleagues that poverty has been the most pervasive factor in the re-emergence of TB, regardless of the overall wealth of a country.

While TB is mostly curable — over 90 per cent of cases recover after full treatment — some cases have spawned dangerous drug-resistant strains of the disease.

Dr. Bloom's clinic studied 224 tuberculosis patients at a hospital in Harlem in New York, where only 11 per cent of patients completed full treatment.

Of the patients studied, 32 died directly from tuberculosis.

"We have now analysed those who have the more interesting transmitted strains... almost 50 per cent are resistant to one drug and 24 per cent are multi-drug resistant," Dr. Bloom

told the conference. "So this is much different than the patterns that one might have expected to see."

Dr. Bloom said that only five per cent of the TB cases studied were homeless and neither was alcohol or intravenous drug use statistically a factor.

But he said that an overwhelming number of cases came in clusters from run-down neighbourhoods.

"This relates to the social milieu of poor ventilation, poor nutrition, crowding, and most of all poverty," he said.

Dr. Bloom said that data from the U.S. Centres for Disease Control showed that it took an average of 11 weeks from the collection of the specimen to identify and isolate whether the patient was resistant or susceptible.

"We want to develop an inexpensive, low technology, diagnostic test, which would more quickly identify the presence of drug-resistant organisms," Dr. Bloom said.

He said his clinic was studying a diagnostic process which would allow detection of drug-resistant strains within two to three days, but the method is still being studied.

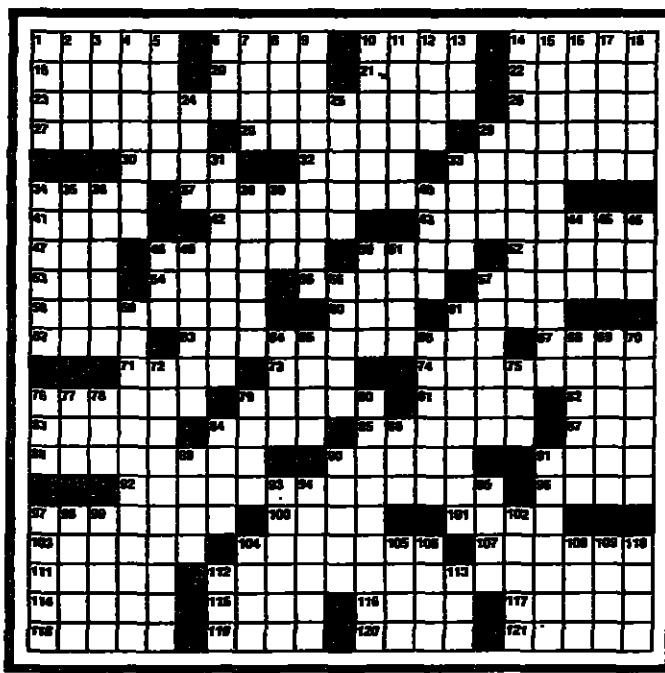
WEEKEND CROSSWORD

ANY WHICH WAY

By Matthew Bingham

- ACROSS
1. Separate
 2. Lull
 3. Shady hard
 4. Discontent
 5. — Saffron
 6. Decline
 7. Adieu dear
 8. Cynical's words
 9. Ailing
 10. Turbulent sound
 11. Carved head
 12. Barely lit
 13. Turnkey, in England
 14. Outlines
 15. Lagoon
 16. Respects
 17. Minute
 18. David's two-year position
- DOWN
1. In the way
 2. Decline
 3. Aftermath
 4. Assured
 5. Liberal
 6. Sea lilies
 7. Stadium
 8. cheer
 9. 17th-century Bath and 21st
 10. Slatemaster
 11. "A — in Brooklyn"
 12. Vile also
 13. Do over and material
 14. To shelter
 15. Outburst
 16. "La —"
 17. Welcome
 18. Unconsciously irregular

- ACROSS
41. Walter's requirement
 42. Frank
 43. Daring spy
 44. Bright — penny
 45. Obscurely
 46. East split
 47. Ailing
 48. Turbulent sound
 49. Carved head
 50. Barely lit
 51. Turnkey, in England
 52. Outlines
 53. Lagoon
 54. Respects
 55. Minute
 56. David's two-year position
- DOWN
16. "And thereby hangs —"
 17. More tender
 18. Field workers
 19. Macmillan
 20. Certain flies
 21. Midge
 22. Carving expert
 23. 17th-century Bath and 21st
 24. Slatemaster
 25. "A — in Brooklyn"
 26. Vile also
 27. Do over and material
 28. To shelter
 29. Outburst
 30. "La —"
 31. Welcome
 32. Unconsciously irregular



Last Week's Cryptogram

1. Old-fashioned young man offers penny candy to each poor youngster entering his old-timers' store.
2. One-star hotel should be called "The Strandvair" because it's such an old vile inn.
3. Another Yogi Berra witicism: "Nobody goes there anymore — it's too crowded."
4. Good advice: When everything else fails, try following directions.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. L E N Y M Y T H W E T R Y S A T E W T E L T S M W X H V U T V E A K W M M E R N A H E T U U U O V S M W X

5. X M L X M S M N N R E W V O W. — By Ed Haddleton

2. N Z Z P J I R N Z W R Y W Y L V J H P G V Z W J I C

3. T Y L Z P G J R M Q P Q E N Z I L N Z L Z M G L J P Z

4. N Z W S Z W J L Z M Y M Y M Q P I G K N J M Z

8. Y H Y H Y. — By Rita Salvato

3. Q P K N E A C H Y C F F R T P I P I F D Q N G E U B R Y.

4. P U G G L Y P E G S F T T P E G Y P I G G P Y V A R

5. L D P Y P E G S V E V B H A P E G V N G B Y. — By Deane H. McGogy

4. M U X E U L T T R U I S M P U N W S O X Y A U L Y

6. Y A W B O T D T U P "N O D E" L Y M I X E D U P. — By Frank N. Stein

43. Memory stone

44. Isolated, undeveloped place

45. Spring of water

46. Gift for dead

47. Peter — Rubens

48. Give off

49. About 2.2 lbs., for short

Estrogen counters bone-thinning linked to thyroid therapy

By Brenda C. Coleman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Estrogen counters the bone thinning associated with high-dose thyroid hormone therapy in women over 50, researchers say.

Smaller studies previously reported the link between thyroid hormone therapy and bone thinning, which puts women at greater risk of fractures, said the researchers.

This study of nearly 1,000 women is the first to find that women who took both Estrogen and thyroid hormones had bones as healthy as if they had never received thyroid hormones, said Dr. David S. Cooper, director of endocrinology at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore

and co-director of the Thyroid Clinic at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Dr. Cooper is not a member of the team, led by Dr. Diane L. Schneider of the University of California-San Diego, that reported its findings in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Thyroid hormones are among the most frequently prescribed drugs in America.

Most of the millions of patients who take them must do so indefinitely to counteract the hormone deficiency created by an underactive, damaged or removed thyroid gland. Inadequate thyroid hormones can lead to tiredness, dry skin, hair loss and weight gain.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- (a) Rome
- (b) Chicago
- (c) Cairo
- (d) Paris
- (e) Philadelphia
- (f) New York

- (i) Corsica
- (ii) Elba
- (iii) St. Helena

- The Netherlands.

It stands for Koninklijke Luchtvaart Maatschappij (Dutch Air Lines).

- People's Republic of China.

- William C. Handy.

PUZZLES

(A) How is your vocabulary?

- VATICAN, NACRINE
- DESCANT, UNACTED
- UNCANNY, MANACLE
- SCANDAL, FURNACE
- CANVASS, SARANAC
- CANTEEN, ALMANAC
- SCANNED, SPINACH
- VACANCY, MENACED
- CHICANE, ENACTOR
- PELICAN, NACELLE

(B) Find the missing number
The missing number is 54.

Palestinians see Cairo accord with scepticism

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Palestinians are suspicious of agreements on paper and are anticipating the actual implementation of the historic accord on self-rule of Gaza and Jericho, according to Saleh Ra'fat, a member of the Palestine Central Council.

"Palestinians are suspicious of the new Cairo agreement, especially with the Israeli occupation forces' closure of the city of Jerusalem and the military constraints Israelis are exercising on Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," Mr. Ra'fat told the Jordan Times on Wednesday.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Wednesday signed the agreement on self-rule in Gaza and Jericho in Cairo. The agreement, which was under negotiation for the last six months, will clear the way for the first Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian areas it seized in the 1967 war.

Palestinians are divided in the way they look at the peace talks. There are those who fully support the talks and back the negotiators. Then there are those who back the principle of peace but want a tougher stand in negotiations. And last there are those who oppose the principle of making peace with Israel altogether.

Ibrahim Quba'a, also a member of the Palestine Central Council, told the Jordan Times that he saw the signing of the Cairo agreement as a coup which is bound to shock and confuse the Palestinians no matter how prepared they thought they were.

While Nayef Hawatmeh, the leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), and George Habash, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

(PFLP) lead a 10-faction coalition that includes the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. The coalition operates from Damascus, and has followers in the occupied territories.

Mr. Quba'a urged Mr. Hawatmeh to show courage and stop talking about nothing but the "humiliating submission of the PLO."

Mr. Ra'fat, a member of the DFLP faction that supports the peace talks, accused Palestinian negotiators of submitting to humiliating conditions in the Cairo agreement which, he said, contradicts the clauses of the Oslo agreement. He said that while the Oslo agreement gave Israelis the right to secure order only within Israeli settlements, the Cairo agreement stipulates that Israeli forces will continue to operate in Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Ibrahim Abu Ayyash, also a member of the Palestine Central Council, urged all Palestinians to join forces to make successful the implementation of the Cairo agreement, which, he said, fell short of addressing major issues. Mr. Abu Ayyash added that one cannot but fear the consequences of the autonomy accord as it failed to attain major achievements.

"While we are signing peace agreements, Israelis are establishing more settlements in different areas of the occupied territories, and that is very worrying," Mr. Abu Ayyash said.

Mr. Ra'fat, however, said that he hoped for the establishment of a "real" Palestinian authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to reclaim Jerusalem and end all forms of Israeli occupation.

Mr. Quba'a criticised the Palestinian negotiators for what he called their failure to coordinate with the Jordanian government where the peace talks are concerned.

"Palestinians and Jordanians are one body, and this lack of coordination will reflect negatively on the future Palestinian entity if the situation is not corrected," Mr. Quba'a said.

King: Lack of coordination poses danger

(Continued from page 1)

process would have any effects on the regional economic situation in the wake of the Palestinian-Israeli economic accord signed in Paris, King Hussein said Jordan was demanding a balanced deal in the economic process, especially concerning the question of boycott of trade between Israel and the Arabs.

"This is not a mere question of Arab countries boycotting Israel but of dealing with Israel's practice of imposing protectionist measures against us and against the Palestinians and the other Arab countries," the King said.

"In my view these and other relevant questions have to be settled in a sound and fair manner to pave the ground for sound economic and trade dealings in the future," King Hussein said.

"On the other hand, when peace is achieved, we would

have the chance to tackle urgent questions that would transform our lives for the better," he said. He noted that there are such pressing issues like the water rights because "we want to have our full share of the region's water resources, especially in the light of indications that the available water resources in Jordan would not be sufficient for domestic consumption in the coming few years and there is need for alternative resources."

"We have to implement the items listed in the Jordanian-Israeli agenda to ensure the return of occupied Jordanian land and when these lands have been returned to Jordan's sovereignty discussion can start on what can be done in the Jordan Valley, starting with the northern areas and the water resources," he said.

Asked to sum up the Jordanian stand vis-a-vis the peace process in the light of Amman's refusal to sign a separate peace treaty with Israel, the

King said that it would be strange and ridiculous to ask Jordan to sign a peace treaty and then sit down to negotiate the details.

"If this is what is proposed to us, it would mean capitulation and not real peace-making," the King said.

"We insist that all issues along all tracks be settled first so that peace would crown satisfactory solutions," King Hussein stressed. "Peace cannot be achieved without tackling all the outstanding issues," he said.

On progress along the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in the peace process following Syria's declared acceptance of the concept of a peace treaty with Israel, King Hussein said though Jordan is concentrating on bilateral issues with Israel it realises that progress along the other tracks is of concern to the Kingdom as well, especially the question of water resources.

"Such questions require

further discussions as they affect the lives of all people in the region and then we can ask the world to come and help us in the process of formulating a peaceful future," the King said.

"In my view, the Assad-Chirac meeting was useful and important because it created mutual confidence as I have felt in my meeting with the American president and the Syrian leader," the King said. "This confidence encourages us and gives us hope that matters are heading in the right direction."

"It should be noted here that the U.S. president and his administration face continued pressure and there are parties that try to impose their own stands in favour of Israel, especially in this critical stage when a durable and just peace is being sought. But what is more disturbing at this stage is to see the Arab side in total disarray," the King added.

Answering a question about the status of Jerusalem, the King said: "We are in contact

with the U.S. administration demanding a clear position with regard to U.N. Security Council Resolution 904 and Washington's stand. We are hoping that the American stand vis-a-vis the holy city has not changed."

But, he said, time will judge whether there was a change in the American stand and if a change has happened then it would be due to failure on the part of the Arabs in adopting a collective stand and would mean adverse setbacks concerning Arab national interests.

Asked whether Jordan has been the target of terrorist campaigns at the domestic and external fronts perpetrated by the Abu Nidal group and whether Libya had anything to do with such operations, the King said that the assassination of Jordanian diplomat Naeb Maaytah in Lebanon was not the first terrorist action against the Kingdom.

"The Abu Nidal group had had other similar roles in the past and committed other

crimes, and we can only wait for the results of the investigations in Lebanon and we appreciate efforts by Syria and Lebanon in this concern," the King said.

"Once we had gathered all the details, we would relay them to the Arab countries where Abu Nidal and his group operate and sound out their views concerning such operations which have served the enemies of the Arab World and damaged Arab interests," he said.

Asked on how he viewed the future of Arab solidarity and possible unity, the King said that he was not in a position to answer this question in an absolute sense, noting that he was realistic to believe that "no one under the present circumstances can describe the prevailing situation as solidarity or unity among Arabs or even coordination or cooperation even at the lowest minimum level."

He said Jordan was nevertheless maintaining wide contacts seeking joint Arab action.

House session breaks up after argument

(Continued from page 1)

Majesty King Hussein's recent speech during the celebrations of the completion of the restoration work on the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

Mr. Kabariti said the Jordanian position is in harmony with that of the Jordanian people and the Kingdom's participation in the peace talks was part of a national strategy stemming from the fact that "we have to negotiate so that we will be players and not a playing field."

Deputy Toujan Faisal attributed the failure of the House to adopt the statement condemning the Cairo accord to the unwillingness of some deputies to "anger the government, the United States, Egypt or even (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin," but other deputies saw in Ms. Faisal's statement a distortion of the stand of the House.

Most of the 20 deputies who spoke during the meeting were opposed to the agreement and no one has the right to question the position of other lawmakers, said Deputy Abdul

Rauf Al Rawabdeh in reaction to Ms. Faisal's statement.

Parliamentary sources said most of the deputies walked out of the meeting in protest against giving the floor to IAF deputies and other opponents of the agreement while others were excluded.

While some lawmakers said the House failed to adopt the statement due "to outside pressure," others said that the self-rule agreement is a Palestinian affair signed by the representative of the Palestinian people and hence their refusal to sign the statement condemning it.

Mr. Kabariti stressed the urgency of formulating a national strategy to counter the negative economic impact of the agreement on Jordan, reiterating rejection of partial deals that could threaten "our economy and our national unity."

Other lawmakers said the "PLO has burnt its bridges with the Palestinians of the diaspora and become subordinate to Israel" by signing

the self-rule accord. They echoed Mr. Kabariti in saying lawmakers should focus on the impact of the accord on the interests of Jordan.

The House, which cannot discuss the issue during its current sessions because it is constitutionally restricted to the items on the agenda during extraordinary sessions, will hold another meeting today to further discuss whether it will adopt the statement condemning the accord.

Islamic Action Front deputies told the Jordan Times they would try to get the signatures of more than half the members of the legislature on the statement so that it becomes an official document of the House.

But parliamentary sources expected the IAF to fail in its bid because most of the deputies who walked out on Wednesday's meeting have taken a decision not to show up for Thursday's meeting "in continuation of their protest against not being given the chance to speak."

Negotiations on screen, Israel-PLO style

(Continued from page 1)

negotiation took place during the ceremony.

"Nowadays you can watch how birth is being given on television," he joked.

"We had a dream before we had a map. Now we have a map and a dream together," Mr. Peres joked.

Before the dispute, a smiling Arafat was the first to sign the papers in three thick black books and a stack of files, using his own pen instead of one that was offered him. He then shook hands with Mr. Rabin.

But then confusion arose as Mr. Rabin, a former general, looked over the papers. He signed the three main sets, but stopped when presented the blue-covered document that Mr. Arafat had not signed.

Mr. Arafat was clearly upset by the incident, and Mr. Peres, Mr. Christopher and others talked to the PLO leader to try to calm him on the stage as the ceremony went on.

Mr. Arafat then left the room with Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Christopher, and an announcement was made that he would delay his speech

until later. But when he returned, there were smiles all around.

The Israeli delegation said it almost walked out of the signing when Mr. Arafat refused to initial the map.

"It was embarrassing. We would have walked out if he had not signed," Communications Minister Shlomo Aloni said after the two sides overcame the hitch.

Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said Mr. Arafat refused to sign because he had not received a paper summarising three points not resolved at the final session of negotiations that ended only hours before the signing.

"After it was said he would receive the letter, he signed the map," Mr. Sarid said.

Eight Israeli, Palestinian, Egyptian, U.S. and Russian officials took part in the complicated mime dance, gesturing, bickering and cajoling.

"From the beginning to the end it was drama, from one drama to another. I knew there would be lots of drama but I did not foresee the drama that we saw on stage today," Norwegian mediator Terje Larsen told Reuters.

Ten years later...
Apple introduces
PowerMacintosh

After all,
what's life
without
RISC?

Ten years ago in 1984, we gave you the power to stand on your own two feet. Now spread your wings.

Because life will never be the same again. You will dare. And win. You will explore new ideas. And master them. You will attempt. And succeed. You will thrive on RISC.

It is Reduced Instruction-Set Computing. Or the power to be the best you've ever been. In the PowerMacintosh. The next generation. From Apple.

It will open old applications. It will open new applications. It will open doors.

It will run System-7. It will run UNIX. It will run MS-DOS. It will run Windows. It will run.

It will be fast. It will be faster. It will be the fastest.

It is a computer. It is an upgrade. It is a phenomenon.

It is a promise from the past. It is a tool for the present. It is a weapon for the future.

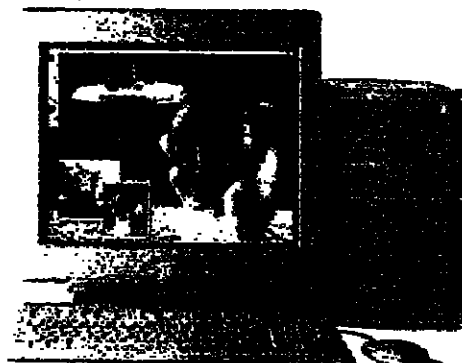
PowerMacintosh

It is powerful. It is compatible. It is here.

See the PowerMacintosh™ during Ideal System's Power '94 Exhibition at Amman Marriott from 4th to 6th May.



The power to be your best.



Heavy shelling in Rwandan capital as talks fail

NAIROBI (AFP) — Rwandan rebels and government troops shelled each other's positions Wednesday in Kigali, where 10,000 U.N. soldiers were gathered as planned peace talks failed to get off the ground in Tanzania.

Rebel and government artillery blasted away in what Red Cross delegate Philippe Gaillard described as "the most violent exchange" since Rwanda's latest ethnic bloodbath began a month ago.

Meanwhile, talks in the Tanzanian town of Arusha were stalled by the refusal of the rebels, composed mainly of the Tutsi minority, to talk to the Hutu-dominated interim government.

The U.N. troops were hurt when the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) bombed the airport, where the army had installed artillery units that were firing on rebel headquarters in the former parliament building.

Abdul Kabia, executive director of the U.N. Assistance

Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), declined to give the nationality of the soldiers, two of whom were evacuated to the Kenyan capital Nairobi, until their next-of-kin had been informed.

Most of the 270 U.N. soldiers still in Kigali are from Ghana and Bangladesh.

Almost all the 2,500 U.N. soldiers formerly in Rwanda were withdrawn last month after 10 Belgian peacekeepers were killed and the force proved powerless to stem bloodletting.

More than 100,000 people have been butchered since President Juvenal Habyarimana's death in an alleged rocket attack on his plane on April 6 unleashed mass slaughter in the tiny central African country.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has launched a campaign for a massive Somalia-style international military intervention.

The United States says it

would help fund it, but no Western countries have offered troops and diplomats were sceptical that the international community would again risk troops in Africa after the Somalia debacle.

The rebels rejected foreign military intervention, saying it was too late to stop genocide.

"It is really insane to hear the U.N. pretending to be willing to send troops when it withdrew UNAMIR at a time when a huge number of Rwandans were being massacred in front of their eyes," the rebels said in a radio broadcast.

Rebel leaders and ministers from the interim government proclaimed after Mr. Habyarimana's death held separate discussions with U.N. and Tanzanian officials in Arusha.

But face-to-face talks aimed at negotiating a ceasefire were undermined by the rebels' refusal to open a dialogue with the "government of killers" which they do not recognise.

Rwandan Transport Minis-

ter Andre Ntagerura told AFP: "We came to Arusha in the hope that we would have direct discussions with the RPF. But the RPF has refused for reasons which are still unknown to us. I hope they will change their position."

"I hope that we will not leave Arusha without signing a ceasefire, which of course must be negotiated between the government and the RPF," he added, reached by telephone.

It was the second time in 10 days that efforts by the United Nations and Tanzania to sponsor talks failed.

U.N. envoy to Rwanda Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh left Arusha for Kampala Wednesday to meet Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, repeatedly accused by the Rwandan government of arming and controlling the rebels.

Rwandan guerrillas, then exiled in Uganda, helped Mr. Museveni overthrow former Ugandan ruler Milton Obote in 1986. The RPF invaded Rwanda from southern Ugan-

da in 1990.

In Kigali, the United Nations met with another setback Tuesday when machete-wielding militiamen and government troops attacked a convoy evacuating civilians from the minority Tutsi tribe out of a government-controlled area.

The rebels draw most of their support from Tutsis, who form about 15 per cent of the population. The army angrily accused the United Nations of reneging on a promise to evacuate civilians of the Hutu majority from rebel-held areas.

On Tuesday a shell hit the Sainte-Famille Church in central Kigali where thousands of civilians have taken refuge, wounding four people, Mr. Gaillard said. Fifteen civilians were killed and another 150 wounded when two mortar shells hit the church Sunday.

The Red Cross meanwhile evacuated 350 orphans from three to 12 were butchered Sunday.



A bereaved mother weeps before the body of her son who was killed in the Bangladesh cyclone (AFP photo)

Dutch begin hunt for new government

THE HAGUE (R) — The Netherlands Wednesday began searching for a viable coalition government after voters completely redraw the political map in a general election.

The tortuous nature of Dutch consensus politics suggests it could be months before a new administration takes shape, a factor which prompted bond and share prices to drift down Wednesday morning.

In the intervening period, the ruling centre-left coalition will continue to administer the country, but cannot pass new legislation.

Both parties of the outgoing government — Labour and the Christian Democrats — lost heavily in Tuesday's vote, though they remain the two strongest parties in parliament.

But Labour edged ahead of the Christian Democrats, becoming the single biggest party and making their leader, Finance Minister Wim Kok, favourite to head the next government.

The Christian Democrats suffered their worst ever electoral result and could be forced into opposition for the first time since universal suffrage was introduced in 1917.

But the conservative Liberal Party and left-leaning D66 were triumphant after making big gains and finishing respectively as the third and fourth biggest blocs in parliament.

Two parties representing the elderly make their debut in parliament, with one of them emerging as the largest of eight small parties elected to the 150-seat parliament. The extreme right-wing Central Democrats increased their share of the vote.

Dutch newspapers described the erosion of support for the two big parties as a revolution but said there were no simple conclusions to be drawn.

"Voters turn parliament on its head" was how Trouw summed it up in a front-page headline. "Landslide" was the even blunter reaction of the mass-circulation Telegraaf.

The 12 parties elected to parliament held their first meetings to discuss post-election strategy Wednesday.

Queen Beatrix has begun consulting political leaders and senior advisers and is ultimately expected to ask Labour leader Kok to try to assemble a new government.

But the delicate balance of power following Tuesday's poll is seen making coalition negotiations — which usually last

several months — even more difficult than usual.

After 12 years of stable government under two-party coalitions, a grouping of three or more parties is now needed to command a majority in parliament.

Two possible coalitions are regarded as most likely — Labour plus Christian Democrats plus D66, or Labour plus Liberals plus D66.

Polls show more voters support the first option but both of these groupings face potential obstacles.

D66 wants to break the Christian Democrats' stranglehold on power and push them into opposition while the Liberals advocate deep welfare cuts, bringing them into conflict with Labour.

Christian Democratic Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers, the country's longest-serving premier, symbolically closed an era in Dutch politics by publicly declaring his candidacy for the presidency of the European Commission Tuesday evening.

Mr. Lubbers had already announced his retirement from Dutch politics but will stay on as head of a caretaker government until a new cabinet takes office.

Seoul warns Pyongyang against nuclear development

SEOUL (R) — President Kim Young-Sam warned North Korea Wednesday it would face "self-destruction" if the Communist state continued to resist calls for an end to its suspected development of nuclear arms.

In one of the strongest statements he has ever directed at the North, Mr. Kim said Seoul's patience was running out.

"I send a clear warning to North Korea. If it continues nuclear development and tries to test the patience of the West, it will inevitably walk the path of self-destruction," Mr. Kim told members of a state advisory group on reunification.

"Now our government's patience has reached a limit... The North's nuclear development should under all circumstances be blocked," Mr. Kim added.

"The northern authorities should realise the only way for them to survive is to accept nuclear inspections and then engage in serious dialogue on establishing peace," he said.

Mr. Kim said the North had launched a campaign of "psychological warfare" with the South by trying to annul the armistice pact which halted the 1950-53 Korean War.

The North last week told United Nations forces stationed in South Korea it would unilaterally pull out of the Military Armistice Commis-

sion (MAC), which works to maintain peace along the tense 250-kilometre border between the two Koreas.

The North has boycotted MAC meetings since a South Korean general was appointed head of the five-person UNC delegation in March 1991, replacing an American.

North Korea, which has defied the United Nations by refusing to allow full inspection of its nuclear facilities by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) officials, last week proposed negotiations with the United States to replace the armistice with a peace agreement.

Meanwhile, hundreds of South Korean students clashed violently with riot police Wednesday when they attempted to storm an American centre in the southwestern city of Kwangju in an anti-U.S. protest, police said.

Police fired tear gas at 300 student activists to block them from approaching the building, a Kwangju police officer said.

Several riot police were injured during the clash with the students, who accuse the United States of creating a warlike atmosphere with its security strategy on the Korean peninsula.

Yonhap News Agency said the students later protested outside the regional police headquarters in the city centre, throwing paint at the building.

China 'going backwards' on human rights

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The human rights situation in China has deteriorated in the past two months, according to a report released here Wednesday by a watchdog group.

The report from U.S.-based Human Rights Watch-Asia comes a month before U.S. President Bill Clinton must determine whether Beijing has made "significant, overall" progress on human rights, enabling Mr. Clinton to renew its privileged trading status.

"If anything there has been a significant, overall deterioration in the human rights situation in China" since Mr. Clinton set the conditions in a presidential executive order in May last year, Human Rights Watch said.

"Contrary to assessments expressed in recent weeks by

several senior U.S. administration officials, significant progress has been made on virtually none of the seven items specified" in the executive order, the report said.

In a report in February, Human Rights Watch said that 1993 was the worst year for human rights in China since mid-1990 and the aftermath of the Tiananmen crackdown on the pro-democracy movement.

"Since the report was issued, the human rights situation in China has deteriorated further."

It cited the rounding up and imprisonment of religious leaders, imprisonment of "peaceful" advocates of Tibetan independence and a clampdown on the arts.

The only concession of real significance was the release last

month of leading dissident Wang Jintao, who has been allowed to come to the United States for medical treatment.

"For his release to be significant, however, it will have to be followed by releases of other prisoners."

China showed no sign of yielding Wednesday to President Clinton's warning that it risked losing its most favoured nation (MFN) trade status with the United States if further improvements are not made in human rights.

The latest spat in the long-running MFN saga coincided with angry Chinese denunciations of U.S. sales of military equipment to rival Taiwan and Washington's threat to retaliate over violations of U.S. patents and copyrights in China.

Japan justice minister denies Nanking massacre

TOKYO (R) — Japan's new justice minister was quoted Wednesday as saying the 1937 Nanking massacre of tens of thousands of Chinese by the conquering Japanese army never happened.

The claim, in an interview with Mainichi Shimbun newspaper, is likely to threaten the ruling coalition's attempts to mend fences with Asian neighbours still angry at Japan's unwillingness to admit wartime and pre-war atrocities.

"I think the Nanking massacre and the rest was a fabrication," the paper quoted Shigetomo Nagano as saying. "I was in Nanking immediately afterwards."

Mr. Nagano, 71, is a former army chief of staff. He became a first lieutenant after World War II ended in 1945.

The minister, who was not available for comment Wednesday's public holiday, was also quoted as saying that Japan's war in Asia had not been aggressive.

"Calling that war a war of aggression is incorrect," he

said. "If you say it was done with the intention to invade, that's wrong. We were seriously thinking about the liberation of colonies and the (greater East Asian) co-prosperity sphere."

The Nanking massacre is one of the most infamous episodes in Japanese history.

In the six weeks after Japanese soldiers seized the southern Chinese city on Dec. 13, 1937, they killed more than 155,000 people, according to the 1948 Tokyo War Crimes

Tribunal. Many of the women were raped.

The Chinese representative at the tribunal said the rape and killing was part of a policy of terror approved at the highest level and designed to end resistance.

Other estimates put the total number of dead at about 200,000. China puts the figure at around 300,000.

Japan's Education Ministry has insisted that school textbooks soften descriptions of the massacre and delete references to rape.

he had waffled on foreign problems, particularly on the war in Bosnia.

But when questioned about a lack of focus in U.S. policy, he often blamed the indecision of other governments, such as in the Bosnia conflict and in the question of whether the NATO alliance should be expanded to former Soviet Bloc states.

The president portrayed himself as a consensus-builder who sought whenever possible to address problems with other nations instead of being a swaggering "bully."

"America cannot solve every problem and must not become the world's policeman," he said. "But we do have an obligation to join with others to do what we can to relieve suffering and to restore peace."

"The means we use will and must vary from circumstance to circumstance," Mr. Clinton said. "When our most important interests are at stake, we will not hesitate to act alone if necessary." But he did not give an example of such action in the 90-minute question-and-answer session.

"Where we share an interest and action with the international community, we work perhaps through the United Nations," Mr. Clinton said, giving examples including international sanctions against Haiti and the U.N.-declared and NATO-enforced "safe areas" of Bosnia.

Azerbaijan signs NATO partnership for peace

BRUSSELS (R) — Azerbaijan signed NATO's "partnership for peace" Wednesday and the former Soviet republic said it hoped the scheme for closer military links with the West would help it end its six-year conflict with Armenia.

"We... hope that our participation in the NATO programme... will make it possible to achieve the soonest peaceful settlement," President Heydar Aliyev said at the signing ceremony at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels.

"Authority of the NATO can be a weighty factor for ending this murderous war." The partnership plan provides for joint training and exercises in fields such as peacekeeping but provides no security guarantees or offers of NATO membership.

Azerbaijan was the 15th country to sign the partnership, which is open to all European states and former Soviet republics. Armenia is also eligible but has not signed so far.

Mr. Aliyev did not say how he expected the partnership to help end the war, or whether he wanted NATO or the United Nations to send peacekeeping forces to his country.

His country wanted a negotiated end to the war but Mr.

Aliyev blamed Armenia for continuing the conflict over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh and for seizing swathes of Azeri territory, which he said Azerbaijan would reclaim.

Thousands have been killed in the longest-running ethnic conflict in the former Soviet Union, which has sparked a major refugee crisis in Azerbaijan. Many ceasefire accords have been ignored and forgotten.

Meanwhile, new Russian-brokered peace talks opened Wednesday to try to end the six-year war over Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, after a similar mediation attempt failed last year.

Representatives from the Armenian and Azerbaijan parliaments and from the disputed Armenian-majority enclave were on hand for the closed-door meeting, which was scheduled to last one day.

Vladimir Shumeiko, speaker of Russia's upper house of parliament who heads the Russian team, said he hoped the delegation from Nagorno-Karabakh would be recognised as an official party to the conflict.

Baku up to now has refused to recognise any official status for the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians, but Mr. Shumeiko Tuesday said Azerbaijan indicated it was ready to change its mind on this point.

Clinton says he is weighing military action in Haiti

ATLANTA (R) — President Bill Clinton said a new "reign of terror" in Haiti has forced him to consider military action if the leaders there refuse to restore democracy.

Mr. Clinton, in a news conference with foreign journalists that was set up by CNN, said the current military rulers "have visited abject misery on their people and they are now once again killing and mutilating... innocent civilians and it is wrong, and we have got to do what we can to try and stop it."

He blamed his together stand on those who ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, saying "they have brought this reign of terror and poverty on their people. They can change it tomorrow if they will."

"Our policy is to restore democracy to Haiti and then to work to develop Haiti with a functioning government and a growing economy," Mr. Clinton said.

Mr. Clinton, accused by critics of a confused policy toward Haiti and its "boat people" refugees, sharpened his rhetoric as the United Nations prepared to consider new sanctions against the military leaders who have refused to restore democracy to the island.

Earlier, during a picture-taking session at the start of a visit with former President Jimmy Carter, Mr. Clinton said the United States had worked "for months now" to get the Hai-

tian military to honour an agreement to return Mr. Aristide, toppled in September 1991, to office.

"For the last several weeks, we keep getting reports not only of Mr. Aristide backers but civilians being not only murdered but mutilated, and I think it's time for a new initiative," he said.

Mr. Clinton said he was pursuing a two-pronged strategy that included seeking tougher sanctions in the U.N. and consulting with friends and allies in the region about how "to bring a conclusion to this before more people die innocently and continue to suffer."

"We cannot remove the military option. We have to keep that as an option," he said.

When a reporter observed that it sounded like Mr. Clinton's patience was running out, the president replied: "I think it is run out. Maybe we let it run on too long."

The Miami Herald reported Tuesday in the latest of a series of military crackdowns against Aristide supporters, Haitian soldiers raided a peasant village a week ago, shooting and beating residents, hacking down crops and burning homes.

Washington is pushing for U.N. Security Council approval of a resolution giving Haiti's military leaders a virtual 15-day ultimatum to resign or leave the country, or face comprehensive economic sanctions much tougher than those so far imposed. A vote could come as early as week's end.

The proposed sanctions would freeze assets and financial transactions of Haiti's ruling elite. They also would clamp an air ban on Haiti, forbidding non-scheduled flights in or out, military or private.

Commercial air traffic would not be hindered.

The United States would also drop an exemption that has helped keep open 60 small companies in Haiti. American companies have farmed out work to these companies in the assembly of clothing, electronics and sporting goods.

If this does not work, a senior official travelling with Mr. Clinton said U.S. military options go beyond reviving a mission to send about 200 U.S. troops to Haiti to retrain its army and police once the military government steps down.

A U.S. ship with U.N.-authorised training forces returned home last October when Haitian mobs blocked the port area.

"The first step is to get the military leadership out, and to begin the restoration of democracy, and we hope to do that through the sanctions, but we have not ruled out other options. That's separate from the training mission," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

Mr. Clinton "has not made a decision to pursue any other options. But we're not ruling them out," the official said.

The president has increasingly come under fire for his stewardship of U.S. foreign policy, including Haiti, which is growing as a focus of controversy. Mr. Aristide has called Mr. Clinton's policy of forcing refugees to return home "racist."

Lawrence Pezzullo, former U.S. special envoy to Haiti, warned Secretary of State Warren Christopher last week the United States was blundering toward futile military involvement in Haiti.

Mr. Clinton's White House predecessor, George Bush, told the Houston Chronicle in an interview published Tuesday it was time for a major shift in U.S. policy toward Haiti, including abandoning Mr. Aristide.

Mr. Bush also said it would be "a tremendous mistake" to send in U.S. ground forces and such an option should be ruled out.

President Clinton sought to improve his foreign policy image with a global news conference that left the impression he preferred playing the role of good neighbour to that of world policeman.

In the internationally-televised session with journalists from around the globe Tuesday, Mr. Clinton hotly defended himself against charges

he had waffled on foreign problems, particularly on the war in Bosnia.

But when questioned about a lack of focus in U.S. policy, he often blamed the indecision of other governments, such as in the Bosnia conflict and in the question of whether the NATO alliance should be expanded to former Soviet Bloc states.

The president portrayed himself as a consensus-builder who sought whenever possible to address problems with other nations instead of being a swaggering "bully."

"America cannot solve every problem and must not become the world's policeman," he said. "But we do have an obligation to join with others to do what we can to relieve suffering and to restore peace."

"The means we use will and must vary from circumstance to circumstance," Mr. Clinton said. "When our most important interests are at stake, we will not hesitate to act alone if necessary." But he did not give an example of such action in the 90-minute question-and-answer session.

"Where we share an interest and action with the international community, we work perhaps through the United Nations," Mr. Clinton said, giving examples including international sanctions against Haiti and the U.N.-declared and NATO-enforced "safe areas" of Bosnia.

he had waffled on foreign problems, particularly on the war in Bosnia.

But when questioned about a lack of focus in U.S. policy, he often blamed the indecision of other governments, such as in the Bosnia conflict and in the question of whether the NATO alliance should be expanded to former Soviet Bloc states.

The president portrayed himself as a consensus-builder who sought whenever possible to address problems with other nations instead of being a swaggering "bully."

"America cannot solve every problem and must not become the world's policeman," he said. "But we do have an obligation to join with others to do what we can to relieve suffering and to restore peace."

"The means we use will and must vary from circumstance to circumstance," Mr. Clinton said. "When our most important interests are at stake, we will not hesitate to act alone if necessary." But he did not give an example of such action in the 90-minute question-and-answer session.

"Where we share an interest and action with the international community, we work perhaps through the United Nations," Mr. Clinton said, giving examples including international sanctions against Haiti and the U.N.-declared and NATO-enforced "safe areas" of Bosnia.

Rolling Stones to tour the world

NEW YORK (R) — Thirty years after their first American tour, the Rolling Stones said Tuesday they are ready to take on the United States again — and later the world. The four remaining members of the Stones — Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ron Wood and Charlie Watts, arrived in a yacht once used by the Kennedy family to tell reporters waiting on a lower Manhattan pier of their plans. They said their latest album, Voodoo Lounge, will be released on July 12 under a new label, Virgin Records, and their U.S. tour will kick off Aug. 1 at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium in Washington, D.C. Then they will take their show to 23 other cities in the United States and Canada this year and to Latin America, Asia and Europe in 1995. Jagger said tickets will be "pretty reasonable" ranging in price from \$25 to \$50. The band's last tour in 1989 grossed an estimated \$30 million. Jagger, 50, was asked if he was getting too old for touring and replied "no, it just takes a little more preparation."

Hungary expels 56 camels

BUDAPEST (AFP) — A herd of 56 homeless white camels has received orders to leave Hungary after their owners were unable to produce the required veterinary documents, the Nepszava Daily newspaper said Tuesday. Hungary's Agriculture Ministry decided to expel the camels after Germany denied the animals entry because they lacked sufficient veterinary papers. Owned by a joint German-Hungarian entertainment group, the two-humped bactrian animals were bought for a German circus in the Russian city, Astrakhan. But German officials refused to accept the veterinary documentation provided in Russia for the caravan, which had been quarantined in a rural Hungarian stable for a month. Germany asked Hungary for a properly documented veterinary examination, but the Agriculture Ministry decided to expel the animals instead, the newspaper said.

Garth Brooks named entertainer of year

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP) — Garth Brooks witnessed the birth of his second child, then moments later won his fourth consecutive Country Music Entertainer of the Year Award. Comedian Jay Leno, decked out in a blue rhinestone-encrusted suit and a five-gallon hat, presented the award at Tuesday's 29th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards. Brooks was in Nashville with his wife, Sandy, for the birth of their daughter, August Anna. "If Garth Brooks thinks being with his wife when she's having a baby is more important than a piece of plastic and metal, I don't know where his values are," Leno joked as he held the trophy. Moments earlier, Dick Clark had announced that Brooks and his wife were parents of a girl, August Anna, their second child. Earlier in the evening, Alan Jackson got to do double duty as one of the awards show's hosts and as a winner of two trophies, for best single and best album. "Well, it sure takes the edge off that hosting job. I'll tell you that," a seemingly flustered Jackson told a cheering audience at the Universal Amphitheatre after collecting the Best Single Award for his foot-stomping, summer-fun tune Chattanooga.

S. African park has too many elephants

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's Kruger National Park said Tuesday it would kill or transfer more than 500 elephants this year to maintain the ecological balance in the huge game reserve. The park's Executive Director Salomon Joubert said the aim was to keep the elephant population in the Kruger and four adjoining private game parks covering more than two million hectares (five million acres) at around 7,500. He said many of the elephants would be transferred to other parks or abroad, some of those counted had already died of natural causes but almost half would have to be killed. "We are not looking at an elephant population in isolation, we are looking at a living organism, a living entity in terms of Park," Mr. Joubert told a news conference.

Bulls sweep 1st round

RICHFIELD, Ohio (R) — The Bulls completed the first step in their quest to prove they can win an NBA championship without Michael Jordan with a 95-92 overtime victory over Cleveland Tuesday that gave Chicago a 3-0 sweep of the best-of-five first round playoff series.

Scottie Pippen scored 23 points, including a driving layup with 1:25 left in overtime to lead the Bulls to victory.

Toni Kukoc added 18 points off the bench for the three-time defending champions, who have eliminated the Cavaliers five times in the last seven years.

Chicago will play the winner of the New York-New Jersey series in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Rookie Chris Mills scored a career-high 25 points and Mark Price had 22 for Cleveland, which again played without injured starters Brad Daugherty, Larry Nance and John Williams.

Mills, who sent the game into overtime by making a pair of free throws with 1:43 left in regulation, tied the game at 90-90 a driving layup with 2:36 left in overtime.

Pippen broke a 92-92 tie with his clutch layup.

In Miami, Steve Smith scored 25 points, including three free throws in the final seconds, as the Heat held off the Atlanta Hawks 90-86.

The surprising Heat took a two games to one lead over the best team in the east and can wrap their first-ever playoff victory at home Thursday.

In the 10 seasons since the NBA went to a best-of-five

first round, there has never been a number one seed upset by a number eight seed.

Glen Rice added 19 points and Rony Seikaly, starting in place of suspended forward Grant Long, contributed 12 points and 20 rebounds for Miami. Long was suspended for his part in Saturday's bench-clearing brawl in Atlanta.

In Portland, Rod Strickland scored 25 points and handed out a franchise playoff record 15 assists as the Trail Blazers beat the Houston Rockets 118-115 to stay alive in their first round Western Conference series.

Houston, which won the first two games at home, leads 2-1 in the best-of-five series. Game four is Friday at Portland.

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 36 points for the Rockets and has 108 points in the first three games of the series.

At Utah, Karl Malone had 24 points and 13 rebounds as the Jazz coasted to a 105-72 rout of the San Antonio Spurs and a two games to one lead in their opening-round playoff series.

Jeff Hornacek added 15 points and John Stockton contributed 13 points and 12 assists for Utah, which will host game four Thursday night.

San Antonio's David Robinson, who led the league in scoring during the regular season, was held to 16 points on 8-for-21 shooting.

The Spurs played without Dennis Rodman, who was suspended one game and fined \$10,000 for incidents that led to his ejection from Saturday's 96-84 Jazz victory.



Sulayem targets Jordan title

MOHAMMAD Bin Sulayem has set himself the daunting target of claiming two victories thousands of miles apart on the World Championship and Middle East Championship circuits in less than a week. While his first aim is to clinch a Group N production car win in the Cordoba Rally, the UAE star is also hoping to follow up with another victory in the Jordan International Rally starting May 12. If this double victory bid is successful, Sulayem will reach the milestone of 30 international rally triumphs in Jordan where he scored the first major success of his career in 1984. The six-time former Middle East champion spent a week practicing for the Jordan Rally before flying to Corsica, and he will be on a flight back to Amman within hours of the World Championship event finishing May 8. Chasing the fifth Jordan Rally win of his career in a UAE Armed Forces Ford Escort RS Cosworth, he will be partnered by Hassan Ali Bin Shahdoor, deputising for Irishman Ronan Morgan.

Only 15 athletes to represent Jordan in the Hiroshima games

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) has announced that 15 athletes will represent the Kingdom in the 12th Asian Games which will be held in Hiroshima, Japan Oct. 2-16.

In its latest meeting chaired by Minister of Youth Abdullah Oweidar, the Olympic committee decided that Jordan's participation would be limited to Athletics, Equestrian, Shooting, Taekwondo, and Karate competitions since athletes of the five sports had met the requirements and criteria for participation in such an international competition.

The decision excluded tennis, boxing and basketball, whose respective federations had asked for a trial run before declaring their preparedness prior to the games.

The exclusion of basketball came as a surprise to most observers as the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) had declared that it would exert all efforts to prepare the national team in time for the competition. To this end, the federation recently met with representatives of the Kingdom's basketball teams to reschedule

the season's competitions in a way which would best guarantee the national team's interests.

According to JBF President Awwad Haddad, it was earlier agreed with the JOC that the national basketball team would start preparations as of June 1, and have friendly matches in July and August after which the federation would evaluate the team's preparedness and address any shortcomings.

However, in its latest meeting, the JOC had asked the JBF to prepare the team by early August by playing against neighbouring national teams to evaluate the team and confirm participation earlier. Thus the JBF's schedule could not conform to the JOC's timetable and the board voted to exclude basketball.

JOC Chairman Mouaffaq Al Fawwaz Wednesday told the Jordan times that the JOC's technical committee had implemented strict criteria and regulations in approving participation.

He explained that athletes or national teams must either have to have achieved a top three positions in an Arab championship, or at least an eighth place winner in an Asian championship.

"Respective federations were carefully screened, and it was finally decided that only 15 athletes would participate," said Dr. Fawwaz in a telephone interview.

"We had given basketball a chance, but they honestly admitted that the team would not be ready by early August," he said, explaining that the national basketball team was not officially eligible to qualify as they had been placed 10th in the last Asian basketball championship in Jakarta last October.

Jordan's last participation in the Asian games was back in 1986 in Seoul. Preparations for the competition as well as travel costs are expected to exceed JD 70,000.

The Hiroshima Games where the official slogan has been declared "Asian Harmony," will host around 7,500 athletes representing 42 nations in 337 events of 34 different sports.

Jordan will be represented by Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein in Equestrian, Radi Abul Ragheb in shooting, Basam Abu Nimr, Muhammad Shanan, Amal Mutari, Suhad Haddad and Awwad Sreys in athletics.

Na'el Oweimer, Ra'ed Odeh, Sa'ed Abdullah and Fa'el Ja'fari in karate as well as taekwondo players to be named later.

The setting of rigid criteria comes as a requirement for scoring impressive results when participating in regional competitions.

In a recent addressing was to promote the quality of sports. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan stressed that this goal must be achieved in any future participation in regional or international competitions.

Therefore, during a meeting of sports federations in Marjeh the minister of youth had again reiterated this point, stressing that federations should keep this point in mind in any competition.

Thus handball, weightlifting, gymnastics, table tennis, swimming, cycling and wrestling federations declined to participate, while tennis, fencing, soccer, judo and volleyball federation did not meet eligibility requirements. Boxing and basketball were given a trial run. Boxing was later excluded when the national team score disappointing results in a recent tournament in Iraq.

A million mourn Senna

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AFP) — A million Brazilians turned out to pay their respects Wednesday as the coffin bearing the body of Ayrton Senna arrived in his native city of Sao Paulo.

Thousands of Brazilians crowded the airport to pay homage to the triple Formula One world champion, who was killed in a high-speed crash at Sunday's San Marino Grand Prix at Imola.

Fans of the 34-year-old national hero had started gathering in the airport at dawn for the late morning flight from Paris.

On arrival, the Brazilian authorities had prepared the honours befitting a head of state, with 60 rounds from a cannon being fired.

The coffin, draped with the Brazilian flag, was carried from the aircraft by six police officers in ceremonial uniform.

The funeral cortege then led mourners on a 30-kilometre drive from the airport to Sao Paulo's legislative assembly, where Senna's body will lie in state for 24 hours.

Brocco, owned by James Bond producer, looking formidable

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Randy Winick will not be blamed for singing "Nobody Does It Better" if Brocco wins the Kentucky Derby.

The song is the theme of a James Bond movie, and the colt's owner happens to be 85-year-old Albert Broccoli, producer of 16 Bond movies.

"Nobody Does It Better" also is how the 44-year-old Winick feels about the winner of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile and the Santa Anita Derby.

"I feel real confident in my horse," Winick said. "If he runs his race, it will take a great effort to beat him."

The trainer's confidence level certainly did not dip after Brocco's Monday morning workout, which had jockey Gary Stevens comparing the colt with another movie hero.

"He worked like King Kong," Stevens said after Brocco went five furlongs in 1:00 3/5.

"What impressed me the most was that coming into the stretch the race track was a little loose," Stevens said. "He bobbed a couple of times but it didn't faze him. I shook the reins at him at the eighth pole,

and he just exploded."

The final furlong was timed in 11 3/5.

While Winick and Stevens were delighted, trainer Jimmy Coll was relieved following derby favourite Holy Bull's workout.

Early in the workout, Holy Bull was bearing down on a lead pony who for some reason remained on the rail after having taken Ulises, a probable derby starter, to the track.

Exercise rider Bobby Perna and others shouted, and the pony was moved out of the way.

"I don't think it affected his work, but my heart was beating faster," Coll said.

The front-running winner of the Florida Derby and the Blue Grass Stakes worked three-quarters in 1:14 3/5 and galloped out seven-eighths in 1:27 2/5.

"The rider said the track was a little cuppy this morning and the horse had to labour to get over it," Coll said. "In the last 30 or 40 yards he got a little leg weary."

Coll, however, said he was satisfied with the move.

Ulises, third in the Lexington

April 24 at Keeneland after winning all four starts in Panama, worked five-eighths in 1:01 1/5 at Mahogany Hall, another derby, worked five-eighths in 1:02 4/5.

Three other of the 15 problems for Saturday's 1 1/4-mile (km) derby also worked Wednesday.

Valiant Nature, who tops Brocco in the Hollywood Futurity and finished second in Holy Bull in the Blue Grass worked five-eighths in 1:01 1/5.

Tabasco Cat, runnerup in the Santa Anita Derby, was three-quarters in 1:15. Stride Creek, third in the Santa Anita Derby, worked five-eighths in 1:02 3/5.

Brocco was purchased by Broccoli for \$215,000 at a sale of 2-year-olds in 1993. His name at the time was Agtyn Kris.

Winick said that when Brocco renamed the colt he told him, "You'll learn to like his name when he becomes a good horse."

Brocco won his first three starts as a 2-year-old before being upset in the Hollywood Futurity.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
BY YAMAM HUSSEIN
©1993 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

RENDER UNTO CAESAR

Neither vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ K 6
♥ 9 8 5 4
♦ K 9 5 3
♣ Q 8 2

WEST
♠ 9 2
♥ K 6
♦ Q 8 7 6 4
♣ K 10 7 5

EAST
♠ Q J 10 8 7 4 3
♥ 2
♦ A J 10 7 3
♣ A 9 8

SOUTH
♠ A 5
♥ A Q J 10 7 3
♦ A 2
♣ J 4 3

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass 3♥ 4♥ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♠.
"None but the brave deserve the fair," wrote the bard. Unfortunately, South gave away in the play the advantage reaped by bold bidding. Although looking at a hand with only seven winners, South did not hesitate to bid four hearts over East's preempt. That might have been disastrous, but it was obvious North would not be able to reopen the bidding, so we consider four hearts a compulsory action.

FIFA to mediate World Cup battle

HONG KONG (AFP) — Following the success of J-League professional soccer, Japan had been the frontrunner to win the 2002 finals. But after Japan's failure to reach this year's finals in America, South Korea has stepped up its bid. Seoul has a lot of support even though FIFA officials have insisted that South and North Korea would have to jointly host the finals.

Peter Velappan, general secretary of the AFC, said Wednesday that ending acrimony between the two over hosting Asia's first World Cup finals in 2002 was one of the main reasons for Havelange's trip to the congress in Kuala Lumpur.

A new plan for South Korea and Japan to jointly stage the finals will be pushed by Velappan and Havelange. "I am sure that Havelange will play a big role in resolving this issue," said the AFC leader.

**WANTED
EXPERT SEAMSTRESSES**
Pls. call
Tel. 644612

FOR RENT

A first-class spacious fully furnished apartment; at Jubeiha-Sweileh Highway. It consists of a master and two other bedrooms, with a grand kitchen and two deluxe bathrooms. Main entrance and other two entrances, spacious backyard.

Interested tenants call 647288 Abu Muayyad from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Restraining J.D. 4500

50% DISCOUNT ON ALL

DUNLOP

TENNIS, SQUASH RACQUETS, SHOES & SPORT WEARS

WADI SAQRA BOOKSHOP TEL: 633379

For Rent
Deluxe Furnished Apartment

1st floor of villa-separate entrance. One bedroom, living and dining room and sitting room. Separate telephone line, central heating, garage, large garden. Located in Um Uthaina. Please call tel.: 825449

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Consists of 2 bedrooms, salon, dining, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, veranda, with central heating and telephone. Rent is annual. Location: Jabal Amman, First Circle. Please call tel. 624730

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Single floor flat of 2 bedrooms, living, sitting & dining rooms, with porch, small garden, separate central heating and phone. Located near Region Hotel. Please call 671880 from 9:00 a.m. till 8:00 p.m.

CARS FOR SALE
DUTY NOT PAID

1983 Mercedes 190 full options.
1984 Nissan Patrol, air-conditioned.
Please call after 2:00 p.m.
Tel. 685392

FOR RENT
Unfurnished, four-bedroom, two salon, 300 square metre, independent villa with garden (Location: Paradise City, Amman).
Furnished two bedroom flat, part of a villa with its separate entrance, electricity meter and central heating (Location: University Road).
Both of them are for rent.
Reasonable rent for the right kind of tenants.
Call 644201 after 9:30 a.m. for detail.

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO LTD

announces the invitation to tender
No. 10F/94

JPMC announces the invitation to tender No. 10F/94 for the Supply of (8000 Metric Tonnes of Ammonium Nitrate).

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department. Application for documents should be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of JD (50) for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submitting tenders is 12:00 hours local time Saturday 28th May 1994.

Sameh Madani
Managing Director

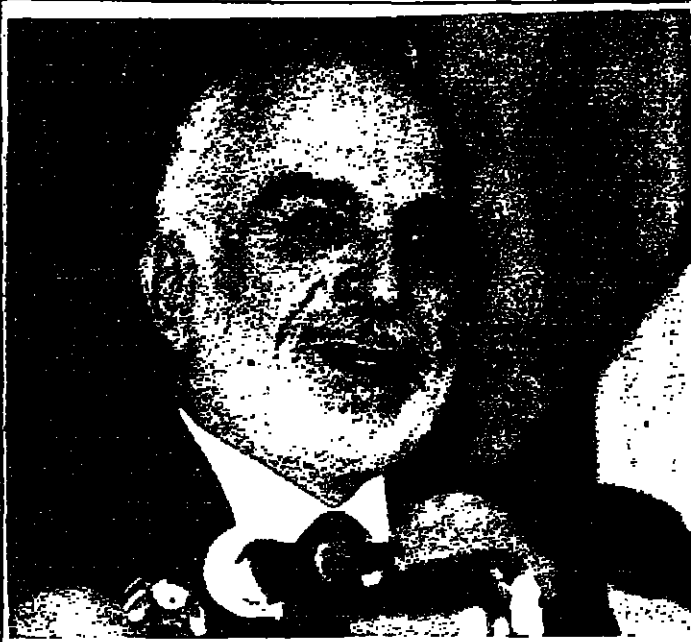
**دار الدواة
NutriDan**

In Cooperation with Dar Al Dawa
The Establishment of the First
Jordanian Baby Foods Manufacturing
Company in the Region

Dar Al Dawa, in cooperation with a multinational baby foods company, signed a technical assistance and development agreement for the establishment of the first baby foods manufacturing company in Jordan. The agreement will provide NutriDan (the newly established sister company of Dar Al Dawa) with complete technical assistance for the facilities, machinery and products. The agreement also covers cooperation between the two companies for continuous product development and R&D. The two companies will collaborate in order to ensure the highest quality and international standards of all products. NutriDan will initially commence by producing high quality infant formulae and a complete range of milk based and regular cereals. The products will be supplied locally and exported to all the markets in the region.

This is in line with the company's long term objective to be a contributor to the Jordanian economy.

	Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420		Tel.: 618274 - 618275		Tel.: 675571		Tel.: 625155
	PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre		AHLAN THEATRE	
T	FLATLINERS		Trouble Bound		CONCORD '1'		The political comedy play		Coming soon		The political comedy play:	
O	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Silence of the Lambs		FORBIDDEN		Abu Awad in: The new comedy		"WHAT A PEACE!"	
D	Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays				CONCORD '2'		FORBIDDEN		"A PUNCTURED BAG"		(Al Salam Ya Salam)	
A	Tom & Jerry at 11 a.m.				Perfect World		Every night at 8:30 p.m.		Directed by Ghassan Al Mashini		At 8:30 p.m.	
Y					Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30						For reservations please call 625155	



King thanks Jordanians and others for sharing grief over Queen Mother

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein appeared on national television Wednesday evening to express his deep gratitude to the Jordanian people for their expression of sympathy over the passing of Her Majesty Queen Zain Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother.

"Your noble and loyal stand and support and your demonstration of the noblest feelings of sympathy over the great loss have left a deep

and gratifying effect in the hearts of the Hashemite family members," King Hussein said in his address.

The late Queen Mother, "who has accomplished her noble mission towards the Jordanian family while they pursued building of the nation, will be remembered by all of us as an example and a model of doing good and of altruism and extending a helping hand to the poor, the orphaned and the needy,"

the King said.

"It was indeed hard for me to break to you the news about the passing of the dear mother who had served as a mother for all Jordanians. But I was overwhelmed by your sympathy and the expression of grief over the Queen's death which enabled me and my family to endure the impact of her departure," King Hussein added.

The King voiced deep gratitude to all those in Jordan

and abroad who had offered their condolences to the Royal Family.

On Wednesday, King Hussein received at the Royal Court Mauritanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mohammad Salem Ould Akhal, who conveyed to the King the condolences of Mauritanian President Maw'awiya Ould 'Taya over the death of the Queen Mother. Mr. Akhal arrived in Amman Tuesday.

14 expellees and families return home

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Fourteen Palestinians crossed the King Hussein Bridge to the West Bank on Wednesday, returning home on the day Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an accord setting out the modalities of autonomy.

The 14, who were accompanied by 35 family members, became the latest batch of expelled Palestinians to be allowed to return home by the Israeli occupation since the beginning of the Middle East peace process in Spain in October 1991.

The 14 were from a list of 15 released by the Palestinian mission here. The 15th man, identified as Najib Ahmad, a member of the Palestine National Council and former head of the PLO office in Amman, will be travelling at a later date, PLO officials said.

The Associated Press identified those returning home on Wednesday as: Abdul Hamid

Al Baba, Mohammad Al Labadi, Musleh Hanoun, Jawad Younes, Majid Al Labadi, Mohammad Amin Al Jaabari, Mahmoud Al Laham, Abdul Salam Al Tamimi, Ali Mahmoud Al Khatib, Ahmed Radad, Jumma Abu Hamed and Yasser Al Awad.

"I'm very happy, but pained because my friends and relatives are still banned from returning to their homeland," the agency quoted Mr. Baba, 31, from the Amari camp near Ramallah, as saying. He planned "to continue political activities until we see Palestine free from occupation."

The returning expellees and their families were seen off from the PLO mission here.

Abbas Zaki, a prominent member of the Fatah Central Committee, who was present at the event, noted that the return came on the day Israel and the PLO had signed the accord on implementing autonomy.

Mr. Zaki said the Palestinians were ready to make peace if the Israelis were "serious."

But if "they (Israelis) continue to massacre and oppress our people, we will escalate our struggle to liberate our land."

Asked if the intifada would continue, Mr. Zaki said, the revolt was "the choice of the people, not of the leadership." Israel has expelled more than 2,000 Palestinians after occupying the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 war. It has agreed to allow most of them back in stages.

Another 50 Palestinian expellees whose bid to return home has also been approved by the occupation authorities are expected to travel next week, PLO officials said. Their names were not immediately available, but are expected to include several expellees who served as advisors to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis. It was not immediately clear why their return was de-

layed.

The batch which returned home Wednesday raised to nearly 150 — excluding family members — the number of Palestinians that Israel allowed to return after the peace process was launched.

In addition, around 30 other Palestinians who fled the occupied territories to evade Israeli capture after the intifada began in December 1987 have also been allowed to return.

More than two-thirds of all the expellees allowed to return are staunch activists of Fatah, the mainstream PLO faction founded by Mr. Arafat. They are expected to assume key roles in the administration of Palestinian self-rule envisaged in the Sept. 13 accord.

Others were either pro-PLO independents or members of PLO factions which support the peace process. These include the Palestine People's Party (PPP) and FIDA, a faction led by Arafat confidant and PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo.

S. Arabia to help ferry Palestinian police force

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Saudi Arabia has agreed to ferry several thousand Palestinians trained as policemen from Arab countries to Egypt and Jordan from where they will proceed overland to autonomous territories of Gaza Strip and Jericho, Palestinian sources said Wednesday.

The sources said the Saudi gesture came after approaches from several Arab countries, prominent among them Egypt, as well as the United States, which has thrown its weight behind the autonomy agreement reached between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in September.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, in a speech after signing an accord in Cairo on Wednesday setting out the modalities of autonomy, referred to the Saudi move.

"Saudi planes are right now transporting the Palestinian force," he said, thanking King Fahd of Saudi Arabia for the gesture as well as his country's overall support for the autonomy accord.

At a donors conference held in Washington on Oct. 1, Saudi Arabia has pledged \$100 million to help support Palestinian autonomy. On Tuesday, the Saudi government signed an agreement allocating \$20 million from the pledge to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which offers services to Palestinian refugees.

The money will be used by UNRWA to finance its projects in the occupied territories.

King Fahd received Mr. Arafat in January after a strain of more than three years caused by the PLO's support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990, Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. But the meeting, PLO sources said,

did not signal a total end to the estrangement.

The Saudi allocation to UNRWA reflected Riyadh's approach that the \$100 million aid would not go direct to the PLO but will be channelled through U.N. and other international agencies working with the World Bank, which is coordinating international aid to support Palestinian autonomy.

PLO spokesman in Amman said they did not have details of the Saudi arrangement to transport Palestinian policemen and did not know whether ferrying had already started.

Units of the police force are stationed in Yemen, Tunisia, Algeria and Sudan as well as Libya. Those in Libya are expected to travel overland to Egypt since international flights to Libya are banned under U.N. sanctions imposed against that country.

"We understand the transportation process will begin in the next two or three days," said Khalid Mismar, a spokesman for the Palestinian embassy in Amman. But he said he did not have further information.

Israel has agreed to allow the deployment of a 9,000-strong police force in Gaza and Jericho to take over internal security as part of the autonomy arrangements.

Seven thousand of the police force will come from Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) units in various countries and 2,000 will be from within the occupied territories.

According to Mr. Mismar and other sources, Saudi planes will fly in units from the host countries to El Arish in Egypt and Amman from where they will proceed overland to the Gaza Strip through the Rafah crossing on the Egyptian-Israeli border and the King Hussein Bridge across the River Jordan.

The deployment of the entire force is expected to be completed in three weeks.

Arabs, Israel fail to agree on arms control agenda

DOHA (Agencies) — A 40-nation conference that brought Israel and many of the Arab states together to discuss Middle East arms control failed on Wednesday to agree principles setting the agenda for the negotiations, delegates said.

A drafting committee of Israel, Arab delegations and co-sponsors United States and Russia referred the draft to a special meeting to be called later. The sticking point was a political declaration that Arabs saw as an attempt to force them to normalise ties with Israel, delegates said.

Israel complained Wednesday that the absence of five Middle East powers from the Arab-Israeli peace process would impede accord on arms control in the region. But the head of the Israeli delegation, defence ministry director-general David Ivri, told the Associated Press his country wanted to start on limitation of conventional arms without delay.

"Arms control is not possible with Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Iran and Iraq not participating," he said.

"If we lay down a solid basis then we can start the process and take risks."

With a 19-man delegation, the Israelis were by far the largest team at the conference in the heavily guarded, pyramid-shaped Majlis Centre of the Doha Sheraton Hotel.

Mr. Ivri insisted that all Middle East countries take part in the drive for arms control, asserting that "when time and thinking mature, then inspections of all kinds of weapons, including chemical weapons, nuclear weapons and all kinds of weapons of mass destruction, would be possible."

Qatar and Oman, which hosted a water conference last

S. African vote count delayed

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — The country's election commission said Wednesday that computer sabotage has further delayed the counting of votes, forcing back the date for Nelson Mandela's ascension to power.

However, the head of the Independent Election Commission, Johann Krieger, said the fraud involved tens of thousands of votes out of 12 million counted and had no impact on the outcome of the poll, which Mr. Mandela's African National Council (ANC) is winning in a landslide.

The main effect has been to delay the first sitting of the new, multiracial national assembly, which was set for Friday but has been moved back to Monday. Mr. Mandela is certain to be chosen president at the session and will be inaugurated as the country's first president on Tuesday.

The computer sabotage was the latest in a series of embarrassing problems and delays that have plagued South Africa's first democratic election. However, most observers maintain the election was substantially free and fair.

Mr. Krieger said the computer fraud was discovered Tuesday morning, and the commission still does not know who was responsible.

"Anyone who had access to our computer system could have done it," said Ben van der Ross, a member of the election commission.

Several parties were given additional votes in a pattern, said Mr. Van der Ross, but officials refused to name the parties.

The fraud was discovered because the votes were being counted twice — once by hand and once by computer. The totals did not match, and officials then found the problem with the computer.

The commission has tabulated just over half of the estimated 23 million votes cast in five days. Asked when the figures would be complete, Mr. Krieger said only that it would be finished before the inauguration Tuesday.

In a separate dispute over alleged vote fraud, the ANC is questioning the validity of about 170 voting boxes in the eastern province of Natal, where the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) is winning the regional election.

IFP leader Zulu nationalist Mangosuthu Buthelezi indicated he would accept the results of the poll.

Mr. Buthelezi spoke to journalists in Ulundi, capital of his soon-to-be-defunct KwaZulu black homeland, after Charles Ntshongweni, an official of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), held talks with Mr. Buthelezi's IFP and the ANC in Durban.

"When we went into the election there was this understanding that we would accept the results," Mr. Buthelezi said.

"My only reservation was that because of the irregularities, I reserved my position. But I don't think there is a possibility that I can turn around now and say that I don't accept the results of the election if everyone else accepts them."

He refused to comment on the likelihood that the ANC would make gains as votes from black townships around the cities of Durban and the provincial capital Pietermaritzburg began weighing into the vote count for the new provincial assembly in KwaZulu-Natal.

The ANC denied reports Wednesday that it had withdrawn its objections. Mr. Krieger said that the counting could be speeded if the parties reach agreement among themselves on disputed ballots in Natal and elsewhere.

The ANC has won 62.5 per cent of the votes counted so far, and outgoing president F.W. de Klerk, leader of the National Party, has conceded defeat.

Mr. Mandela's inauguration — a gala event to be attended by world leaders — cannot be postponed because of the tight schedules of guests that could include the president of China, Yasser Arafat, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Britain's Prince Philip.

Mr. Buthelezi also announced that the members of the 141-seat KwaZulu Legislative Assembly (KLA), which held its last caucus meeting Wednesday, would form an association to be the "eyes of the Zulu people."

Plaudits continued to pour in from across the world to Mr. Mandela and Mr. De Klerk.

Topless photos of Diana on sale

LONDON (R) — Photographs purportedly showing Princess Diana sunbathing topless are being offered for sale by a Spanish press agency, British newspapers reported Wednesday.

The newspapers said the Europa Press Agency was asking £1 million (\$1.51 million) for world rights and £500,000 (\$754,700) for British rights to publish the photographs. Princess Diana was reported to be furious about the photographs, said the top-selling Sun tabloid. The photographs were taken last weekend while the estranged wife of the heir to Britain's throne was sunbathing at a hotel in Malaga in southern Spain during a short holiday.

Two Spanish photographers checked into the same hotel and managed to snatch around 30 shots. The Europa Press Agency told British newspapers five of the photographs showed the princess topless while she sunbathed with two women friends. The story is another blow to Princess Diana's attempts to avoid the media spotlight. She was incensed when two British papers published "sneak" pictures of her working out in a London gym last year. In December 1993, a year after her separation from Prince Charles and after unremitting press attention, Princess Diana announced she was withdrawing from public life. Earlier this year, she even dismissed her official bodyguard. British police say undercover officers keep the princess under surveillance. A Buckingham Palace spokesman was quoted by newspapers as saying: "We are not prepared to discuss photographs that we have not seen. But nobody likes having photographs taken of them which intrude on their privacy, and that includes the Princess of Wales."

Gene Kelly diagnosed with cellulitis

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Hollywood legend Gene Kelly, admitted to a San Francisco hospital over the weekend suffering from flu-like symptoms, has been diagnosed as having a skin infection, the hospital said. The 81-year-old dancer and movie star is suffering from cellulitis, a bacterial infection of the skin which can cause headaches and muscle pain, St. Mary's Medical Centre said. Kelly was described as comfortable and in stable condition Tuesday. He is expected to remain in the hospital for at least one week, while he undergoes treatment for the cellulitis in his right leg, the medical centre said. Kelly, who lives in Beverly Hills, was in San Francisco to attend a performance of Romeo and Juliet by the San Francisco Ballet, when he was taken ill in his hotel room Sunday and taken to the hospital. Kelly complained of headache and body pains and it was initially thought he was suffering from the flu before he was diagnosed as having cellulitis. "Cellulitis is treatable with intravenous antibiotics and can have many causes, including something as simple as a scratch," said Remo Morelli, the doctor treating Kelly. "Over the next few days we will watch Mr. Kelly's condition closely. With patients his age... even simple infections can turn out to be quite serious," he said. Hospital spokeswoman Lynne Tan said the medical centre had received cards, letters and flower arrangements as well as many telephone calls from fans wishing Kelly a speedy recovery. The medical centre has set up a special fax number (415 750-4855) for Kelly's fans to send good wishes.

Charlton Heston defends semi-automatic weapons sales

WASHINGTON (APF) — Hollywood star Charlton Heston came out against restricting sales of semi-automatic weapons as congress debated banning 19 types of the weapons. Neither President Bill Clinton nor any supporters of the weapons ban are telling the truth, he said in a press conference organised by the pro-gun National Rifle Association. "I think the degree of misinformation is more than simple ignorance," said Heston, a long-time supporter of the opposition Republican Party. "It has to be deliberate obscuration."

Palestinian policemen due here from Iraq

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Iraqi-based Al Aqsa Brigades of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) will enter Jordan within the next 48 hours in preparation for its move to Jericho as part of the Palestinian police force, a senior official at the Palestine embassy said Wednesday.

"The Al Aqsa Brigades will enter Jordan at the Karameh crossing and head for the Jordan Valley in preparation for their entry into Jericho," Omar Khatib, deputy ambassador to Jordan, told the Jordan Times.

The announcement was made as Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat was signing the final draft of the first phase of the implementation of self-rule in the occupied territories in Cairo.

The units comprising the Al Aqsa Brigades were given police training at the Jordanian Police Academy and at the PLA headquarters in Jordan at Khaw. They are now regrouping in Iraq and most if not the entire brigade will head for Jordan imminently.

Over 3,000 members of the PLA's Bader Brigades based in Jordan are awaiting word from the PLO headquarters in Tunis to move to Jericho.

According to information obtained from the PLA headquarters in Amman the Al Aqsa Brigades is composed of 850 men. There was no explanation why the Iraq-based Al Aqsa Brigades would move to Jericho before the Bader Brigades.

PLO officials said Wednesday that the members of the Al Aqsa Brigade will camp in the Jordan Valley at the Madinat Al Hajaj for 36 to 72 hours before entering

Jericho. PLO officials said that the first group to enter would be composed of 500 men.

It is not yet clear whether the policemen will enter Jericho in their khaki PLA uniforms or in dark blue police uniforms. Also uncertain was whether the PLA policemen will be carrying light weapons.

"We know that they will be based into Jericho and that's about all. We are still awaiting orders," said a colonel at the PLA headquarters in Jabel Hussein.

The Al Aqsa Brigades have been stationed in Iraq since the PLO fighters were evacuated from Lebanon in 1982. None of the policemen's families would be accompanying their men into Jericho in this first phase of implementation of Palestinian self-rule, PLA officials

said. However, Israel and the PLO have agreed that families of the policemen will be allowed to return to the occupied territories.

One of the points of disagreement between the PLO and Israel is that the Israeli government had reserved the right to approve any Palestinian returning to the areas that will fall under Palestinian autonomy.

PLA officials in Jordan say they expect a simultaneous entry of PLA units from El Arish in Egypt into Gaza and the Jordan Valley into Jericho. "I expect such a move early in the week. Sunday or Monday is seen as a 'likely date,' one PLA official said.

PLA units from Yemen, Algeria and Sudan were said to be on their way to El Arish in Egypt in preparation for their entry into Gaza.

More mediators try to end Yemeni tensions

SANAA (AP) — More mediators arrived Wednesday to urge Yemen's rival political leaders to bury the hatchet and edge their country away from the brink of civil war.

Gourad Hamadou Barkat, the prime minister of Djibouti, a small country that borders the Red Sea coast opposite Yemen, arrived saying he would meet with President Ali Abdullah Saleh and then proceed to Aden to meet with Vice President Ali Salem Al Beidh.

He said he was carrying messages from his President Hassan Gouled Aptidon for the Yemeni leaders.

The Cairo-based Arab League dispatched two mediators — General Mohammad Saeed Al Belqadar, assis-

tant secretary-general for military affairs, and Mohammad Abdul Wahab Issakat, director of the Arab department — on an "urgent mission" to try to end the feud.

Mediation missions by several Arab states have so far failed to put an end to the crisis, which is threatening to derail the Arab World's youngest democracy. U.S. President Bill Clinton, whose military attaché here is part of a mediation joint Yemen military commission also has sent pleas for restraint.

Northern and southern forces have been on the alert for days after a fierce two-day tank battle near Sanaa last week. The northerners said 79 people were killed and more

than 100 wounded on both sides. Others, including some northern officials and Western diplomats, have said hundreds were killed or wounded.

Forces loyal to the north, led by Mr. Saleh, and the south, led by Mr. Beidh, were never integrated even though the two leaders merged their two regions in May 1990.

They have since been encroaching on each other and reinforcing as they edge toward the former borders.

In a war of words between the capital and the Aden stronghold of the vice president, each side is charging the other of provocations and warning of civil war.

Aden on Tuesday denied foreign reports that the north-

erners jettied a southern MIG-21 jet fighter in Lahj province, which is 100 kilometres north of the southern capital.

But the statement from the southern military command warned that Aden would "use its warplanes if necessary to end the northern sieges."

The main flashpoints are in a string of positions from south of Sanaa towards the provinces of Damar, Ab. Abyan and Lahj that lead to the province of Aden.

"Yemen is living the atmosphere of a civil war because of the attempt of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his northern military command to pounce on the south and gobble up its leadership," said the statement.

Sedki arrives for meetings

(Continued from page 1)

Minister and Planning Minister Kamal Al Ganzouri, Economy Minister Mohammad Al Razaz, Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Ahmad Radwan, Health Minister Ali Abdul Fattah and Minister of State for International Cooperation Youssef Boutros Ghali.

He agreed with Dr. Majali's view that the region is passing through one of the most dangerous stages in its history, adding that Arab countries, especially Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine, should join their efforts politically and economically in the face of challenges.

These countries should unite to face the grave challenges

resulting from present developments, of which the most recent was Wednesday's signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Cairo, he said.

"Events which would follow the signing, whether we want or not, would be politically and economically great, and we have to sit together to discuss them within the framework of this committee... or within any other framework that includes other countries in the region."

In addition to Dr. Majali, the Egyptian prime minister and the accompanying delegation were received by Deputy Prime Minister Maan Abu Nowar, Deputy Prime Minister and Higher Education Minister Saeed Al Tal and other senior officials.

France stops role in inspections

(Continued from page 1)

for land-based sanctions verifications by a neutral side.

The French embassy in Amman late Wednesday issued a statement announcing its decision to quit the multinational inspection forces, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Through taking this decision, it said, "France aims to demonstrate its support for Jordan in finding a formula that would help reduce the heavy burdens inflicted upon the Jordanian economy by the naval inspection operations."

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Tuesday no Jordan-bound ship was inter-

cepted by the enforcers of the sanctions against Iraq after the April 23 meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in London.

During that meeting, Mr. Christopher announced that subject to "some fine-tuning" Washington was accepting Jordan's proposal to replace the sea-based inspections by American-led warships with an on-shore sanctions verifications regime.

Dr. Majali said that despite the acceptance announced by Mr. Christopher no further steps had been taken to place the sanctions-verifications regime at Aqaba.